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WORLD SOCCER

SPECIAL ISSUE

ITALIA'90

WORLD CUP LATEST

EURO CUPS FINALS

Reports and pictures

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ITALIA '90

Italy are the favourites but can they stop Maradona?

Italy on the brink of history

KEIR RADNEDGE – who leads World Soccer's reporting team in Italy – assesses the World Cup favourites, the outsiders and the possible outcome of the tournament

ENJOY the World Cup! This is the pinnacle of the game, reflecting all its goods and ills and being staged in a country which will 'live' the event in a manner beyond, perhaps, anywhere else in Europe. Those lucky enough to be travelling to Italy and those many millions watching on television will thrill to the drama and controversy and rage on behalf of their favourites at the injustice of a bad bounce or controversial decision.

But the World Cup does not exist in a vacuum. The focus of the world will be upon European football in general. Not only its players but its fans and its administrators. Official cares and concerns about the prospects for the game in the 21st century will not go away. Rather, the challenges will appear exacerbated by events in Italy.

That is why there is real concern about a rapidly developing leadership crisis within the European game.

Decisions

Immediately after the World Cup Final on July 8 UEFA will face major decisions on three issues which will set the tone for soccer's future – or lack of it – within an international social context. In no particular order, those iddues are hooliganism, an accommodation within the European Community labour laws, and pan-European television power.

Hooliganism will be a subject of fearful attention not only during the finals but as soon as they are over. Many officials fly straight on to Switzerland for the European club draws. One would fell less worried about the quality of their deliberations if UEFA had not lately gained a president whose policy appears to depend on the identity of his latest luncheon partner.

Within weeks of taking office Sweden's Lennart Johansson had turned to face all points of the compass on hooliganism and the prospects of an English return to club competition. Nobody is any the wiser. Indeed, the situation has become only more confused and, probably, hopes have been raised prematurely. No-one doubts that Johansson wants only what is best for the game. But, he cannot face two directions at once. Just as, ultimately, only one team can win the World Cup.

FIVE nations shine as contenders to win the World Cup Final in Rome's Olympic stadium on July 8.

Argentina, the defending title-holders, stand out because of the presence of Diego Maradona, the world's greatest footballer;

Brazil, South American champions, boast all their usual talent supported by their key players' extensive experience of the European game;

West Germany have the most consistent last-four record of any European nation;

Italy possess all the advantages which fall to the host nation; and Holland, European champions, present the self-confidence which can rise above the most gruesome managerial and injury problems.

Having said that, every World Cup comes up with a surprise package. After careful study of the draw and the implications of how its structure works, I believe these five co-favourites will be joined in the quarter-finals by Sweden, England and Spain. And whereas the quarter-finals must be the limit of Swedish ambition, it would be only a mild surprise if England and Spain – two of Europe's greatest traditional soccer nations – progressed into the last four at the expense of a more fancied runner.

Ultimately, however, any dispassionate outsider viewing the World Cup can only hope that true talent and genius achieve a worthy success. And when one considers individual talent, one man – and thus one country – stand out.

If Maradona can lift his form and spirits above his ability to attract controversy then Argentina could become the first nation since Brazil, in 1958, to win the World Cup in the 'wrong' continent.

When Brazil triumphed in Sweden they did so without having the advantage of home-town knowledge. Argentina, on the other hand, will play two of their three first-round matches in Naples, on the very ground where Maradona has been thrilling and exasperating the local Napoli fans since 1984.

Four years ago in Mexico, Argentina won the World Cup because Maradona turned on all the magical trickery of which he is capable. He inspired team-mates and intimidated opponents. Manager Carlos Bilardo depends on a repeat performance in Italy.

But Argentina's reliance on Maradona is also their achilles heel. This past year Maradona's erratic behaviour away from the pitch prompted speculation that he no longer possesses the driving ambition which persuaded first Barcelona then Napoli to pay world record transfers of £3million and £5million respectively.

Shadow

Bilardo saw the warning signs at the South American championships in Brazil last summer. His captain was a chubby shadow of the man who inspired Argentina to glory in Mexico City in 1986. Argentina finished a disappointing third, behind old rivals Brazil and tiny neighbours Uruguay. This spring Maradona has worked intensively on repairing his fitness, stamina and general health. How successfully, we shall see.

Maradona is not the only disparate element in Bilardo's plan. Italian-based Claudio Caniggia attracted lurid headlines of his own last year when he was implicated in a drugs-smuggling scandal. Caniggia protested his innocence and that upset subsided.

Now Bilardo has failed in one last gamble to hold Argentina together. He persuaded attacker Jorge Valdano to try a comeback. Valdano, a World Cup-winning hero in Mexico, is 34 and retired two years ago after his career was interrupted by hepatitis.

Last summer Bilardo saw Valdano playing in a old friends' kick-about and asked him if a World Cup return was possible. Valdano, by now on the coaching and administrative staff of his old club, Real Madrid, persuaded old team-mate Jose Camacho to help him regain fitness. He was Argentina's best player when he returned to action in a friendly against Monaco.

Bilardo hoped that Valdano could provide the experience to counter-balance the unpredictability of Maradona and Co. He was not up to it – throwing an extra load onto Maradona.

In Sweden's case, a great deal of faith rests in a man who hopes his World Cup form will earn him a return to Italy. Star striker Johnny Ekstrom loves Italy and the lifestyle. His wife is Italian and his only sour memory of the country is that the club who originally took him there, Empoli, were not strong enough to survive in the first division.

It was Ekstrom who scored perhaps the best goal in Sweden and England's World Cup group, with the solo run which secured a Swedish victory in Poland. Now he hopes to prove to Italian clubs, right on their doorstep, that they should give him another chance.

Sweden's footballers are happy wanderers. Many of manager Olle Nordin's men are abroad, earning their livings in the full-time

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Sweden's footballers are happy wanderers. Many of manager Olle Nordin's men are abroad, earning their livings in the full-time professional game of western Europe. Glenn Hysen of Liverpool is just one – his long-time partner in the Swedish centre of defence is Peter Larsson, who plays for Ajax Amsterdam. Glenn Stromberg in midfield plays in Italy, so does Anders Limpar.

The last time Sweden reached the World Cup finals was in Argentina, when they were involved in first-round controversy. A split-second after Welsh referee Clive Thomas blew his final whistle in their game against Brazil, Brazil's Zico put the ball in the net. Thomas ruled 'no goal.' The Brazilians were furious.

Nordin is determined his men will need no such brinkmanship in Italy. He says: "Our players have learned from playing abroad how they must work at their game to keep up with other countries. In 1958 we were runners-up to Brazil in the World Cup and we thought we could maybe stop learning. It has been a hard lesson."

Sweden are in the same first round group as Brazil and the world's most charismatic football nation are treating that as a good omen. It was in Sweden, as we have noted, that Brazil first won the World Cup.

Brazil hold proud records as the first nation to have won the World Cup three times and the only nation to have competed in every finals tournament. This time, however, their presence was celebrated amid controversy.

In the final match of their qualifying round, Brazil were home to Chile in front of a 140,000 crowd in Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium. Brazil needed only a draw to qualify; Chile needed a victory. A goal from Napoli striker Careca had put Brazil ahead by the time Chile keeper Roberto Rojas claimed he had been struck by a flare rocket launched from the crowd. Chile refused to resume the game which had then to be abandoned.

Minefield

One week later a high-level FIFA commission decided that Chile had forfeited the match by walking off. The tie was awarded 2-0 to Brazil – and, along with it, a place in the finals.

Yet the majority of Brazil's stars prefer playing in Europe to the political minefield which the domestic game has become.

Full-backs Jorginho, Aldair and Branco play respectively with Leverkusen of West Germany and with Benfica and Porto of Portugal; centre-backs Julio Cesar and Ricardo have been playing for Montpellier of France and Benfica of Portugal; midfielders Alemao, Valdo, Silas and Dunga play, respectively, for Napoli, Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and Fiorentina; forwards Muller and Careca are in Italy with Torino and Napoli.

Olympic Games marksman Romario would provide a Dutch link, since he is contracted to PSV Eindhoven. Whether he will be fit after breaking a leg was a matter on which manager Sebastiao Lazaroni was not deciding until the last possible moment.

Other countries would consider it a major drawback to see their players performing and living half a world away. But Lazaroni, a former submarine officer, says: "I am not too worried. Great players quickly grasp what a manager wants. Many of our players are in Italy which is a country whose football possesses a high degree of tactical sophistication.

"These are intelligent men who know how to adjust their individual abilities to a team environment. On top of that, we have players at home such as Bebeto and Bismarck who are virtually unknown in Europe – yet whose split-second ability to surprise could be worth more than a month of training drills."

No nation has won the World Cup four times. No nation has won the World Cup twice on the 'wrong' continent. Brazil could manage two for the price of one.

On the other hand, the Brazilian could find the achievements of one of their World Cup legends being emulated by Franz Beckenbauer if West Germany sweep all before them in Italy.

Holland and West Germany could both go all the way.

No-one has ever captained and then managed the World Cup-winners. The nearest was Brazil's Mario Zagalo, who played in the winning line-ups of 1958 and 1962 and then was in charge in 1970. German team chief Beckenbauer, however, is in sight of a unique double, having captained his country to glory in 1974. Beckenbauer said before the last World Cup that his team was too young. Even so, they finished runners-up to Argentina. On those grounds, he must hope to have got it right this time.

Jurgen Kohler is one of the best defensive markers in Europe; midfielders Lothar Matthaus and Andy Brehme know all about pressures in Italy because they play there for champions Inter. So does striker Jurgen Klinsmann, while centre forward Rudi Voller – who was the Germans' four-goal top scorer in the qualifiers – plays for Roma. Then midfielder Thomas Hassler will want to prove that Juve are getting value for money when they buy him this summer from Koln for £5.5million.

West Germany are potentially the most dangerous of World Cup contenders because they have proved repeatedly capable, over the years, of getting a result when not playing well. They must also believe that 1990 is the year for third time lucky, after losing the Finals of 1982 (to Italy) and 1986 (to Argentina).

The Germans have a terrific World Cup record. They were winners in 1954 and 1974 and have been three times runners-up. Down the years they have featured in some of the competition's most memorable matches – from the meetings with

TURN TO PAGE 4

Bosman, Koeman join Robson

Bobby Robson is not the only big name facing the challenge of regaining the Dutch league title for PSV Eindhoven next season.

England's World Cup manager will be joined on the new arrivals list by the £4 million Mechelen pair John Bosman and Erwin Koeman – and Bosman will have a point to prove after being dropped from Holland's World Cup squad.

Other star absentees from the extravaganza in Italy include Alexei Mikhailichenko, Miodrag Belodedici and Luc Nilis. Soviet midfielder Mikhailichenko has been struggling all this year with a knee injury. Belodedici cannot play for Rumania because he has taken Yugoslav citizenship since seeking asylum 18 months ago and Nilis was surprisingly omitted from Belgium's squad after being dropped to substitute by Anderlecht for the CWCF.

Anderlecht are buying Dutch centre-back Graeme Rutjes from Mechelen and World Cup striker John Van Loen from Roda.

Israel have banned Eli Ohana, Shalom Tikva and Ronny Rosenthal from international football for periods from between 18 months to four years after they refused to play against the Soviets in a row over insurance. The players have also been fined.

UP FOR THE CUP!

THIS edition of World Soccer contains more of the sports artist sketches of some of the outstanding players to have appeared in the World Cup finals. These are for insertion in the booklet, 60 Glorious Years, which was presented free with the May edition. Cut out the cards and glue them in the correct place. Then collect the final eight cards in next month's magazine to complete your souvenir of the world's greatest single-sport event.

Keep up with the Cup – with World Soccer!

WAIT FOR IT . . .

WORLD SOCCER'S July edition will go to press immediately after the World Cup Final on July 8. It will provide the fullest, fastest, most detailed and comprehensive coverage of the World Cup finals available anywhere – in any country, in any language.

In previous years the World Cup Report edition has been an instant sell-out. Make sure YOU don't miss your copy. On sale Friday, 13th July. Order now – or take up our special subscription offer.

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Brazil are many experts' tip for glory.

CONTINUED

England in 1966 and 1970 to the unforgettable 1970 semi-final against Italy.

As for Beckenbauer, he cannot lose. He has already announced that he will be stepping down as national manager after the finals.

If the Germans have a weakness it is in goal. This may be why Beckenbauer had hoped the veteran Bayern Munich sweeper, Klaus Augenthaler, would be available to return to the national side, to contribute defensive solidity. It may also have been a little superstition, as well. After all, the last time West Germany won the World Cup the team's cornerstone was a Bayern Munich sweeper...named Beckenbauer.

West Germany won, in 1974, as hosts; so did Argentina in 1978. But there were home-grown failures for Spain in 1982 and Mexico in 1986. Perhaps, statistically, another hosts' success is overdue. Italy certainly think so – though manager Azeglio Vicini has not had an easy time of it this season.

He should have been putting to the finishing touches to his master plan to turn the Italians into the first nation ever to win the World Cup four times. Instead, the closer the finals came, the tougher he found it. Star sweeper Franco Baresi, the hub of the team, broke an arm last November playing for Milan and his form dipped as a result. Then stopper Ricardo Ferri was ruled out for three months after a shoulder operation.

Pressure

In attack Vicini lost Gianluca Vialli – his greatest star – early this spring for a month with a broken bone in his foot. Some of Vialli's team-mates at Sampdoria of Genoa hinted that it was an old injury but, such had been the pressure, that Vialli had felt obliged to keep quiet and play on.

Such pressure is the greatest threat to Italy's World Cup dream. They possess some of the finest, most spectacular, footballers in the world. Yet the pressure-cooker intensity of being hosts to the world could easily work against them.

It was not without signficance that Italy surprised even themselves in 1978 when they finished fourth in Argentina – well away from the destructive domestic force exerted by their own fans and media.

Vicini has another problem which is dividing the nation and giving him sleepless nights. He cannot work out what to do with the Juventus-bound Roberto Baggio. Vicini cannot find his best position. Baggio cannot guarantee consistent brilliance. For example, he was superb, scoring twice, against Bulgaria at the start of the season. Then he was anonymous in a 1-0 defeat by Brazil.

Vicini says: "Baggio is too much of luxury in the tough games." But with no-one to give £10million-rated Gianluca Vialli much support up front, Baggio represents one of Italy's few hopes of getting enough goals.

While Italy depend on Vicini to sort out all these problems, Holland do not really need a manager at all. Players such as Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Ronald Koeman have such discipline and self-assurance that managerial guidance is the last thing they need. To prove the point the players forced the Dutch federation to dismiss the manager, Thys Libregts, who brought Holland through the qualifying tournament. This time the players – with Gullit hopefully fit just in time – believe they can make up for the double failures of the 1970s.

Then Holland lost 2-1 to West Germany in the 1974 Final and 3-1 to Argentina four years later.

Holland's prospects rest with Gullit's damaged knee. He was injured more than a year ago, playing against Real Madrid in the European Champions' Cup quarter-finals. Three knee operations have left Gullit facing the prospect of missing the World Cup altogether – or gambling on his entire career.

Superb Goals

Gullit has gambled once with his fitness. That was in deciding to play against Steaua Bucharest in last year's Champions' Cup final. Gullit scored two superb goals but there is now no doubt that his match-winning efforts aggravated his injury.

Holland's good fortune is that they are perhaps the one country with the talent which enables them to approach the finals confidently despite the possible absence of such a towering personality.

Gullit's own club, Milan, hold the key. Team-mates Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard have been in superb form this past season – Van Basten collecting the European Footballer of the Year accolade for the second successive time. Elsewhere among the exiles centre-back Ronald Koeman's striking rate with penalties and free kicks have made him one of the top scorers in Spain.

Plenty of Koeman's Barcelona team-mates will be lining up at the finals for Spain, of course. But manager Luis Suarez has an unusual challenge to resolve if Spain are to live up to their reputation.

The magnitude of Suarez's task is reflected in the contrasting characters of the stars involved: Madrid midfielders Michel and Martin Vazquez as well as striker Emilio Butragueno; Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, midfielder Luis Milla and striker Julio Salinas; and Atletico's aggressive marksman Manolo.

Spain reached the European championship Final in 1984 and were beaten on penalties in the World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico by Belgium. But they were a disappointment in the European championships two years ago. Despite starting with a 3-2 win over Denmark they had to go home early after defeats by Italy and West Germany.

Those defeats were enough to send veteran manager Miguel Munoz into retirement. But Suarez is still relying on the same key men.

The same could be said for England and manager Bobby Robson. His key men in the European finals – indeed, his key men in Mexico in 1986 – are his key men now. That means veteran goalkeeper Peter Shilton, big centre-back Terry Butcher, skipper and midfield driving force Bryan Robson, and top strikers Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley.

Lineker was six-goal top scorer at the World Cup in Mexico. His form then earned a lucrative transfer to Barcelona but now he is back in England, with Tottenham. Lineker's goals are one of the reasons why Tottenham currently stand fourth in the English first division – though he would be the first to admit that he made a slow start to the season.

In Mexico England reached the quarter-finals before falling to Argentina and Maradona's infamous 'Hand of God' goal. England thought they had been cheated and so they were. But in truth the quarter-finals was about as far as England deserved to go and the same is the case this time.

Improved

England have discovered no new individual to take the World Cup by storm. Chris Waddle is a winger who has improved by leaps and bounds since his British record £4.3million transfer to French champions; also, John Barnes is a wing star at Liverpool. But it is doubtful whether any World Cup manager can afford the luxury of two wingers.

Manager Bobby Robson might consider doing so – as he did in the recent friendly 1-0 win over Brazil – if he has his namesake, Bryan Robson, in midfield. But Bryan, who crashed out in Mexico with shoulder trouble, is only just returning to fitness after yet another leg injury. Whether he will be fit enough to last the pace in Italy must be highly doubtful.

And at the end of it all?

This my quarter-final line-up:
Argentina v Holland
England v Italy
Brazil v Spain
West Germany v Sweden

As for the semi-finals, that means:
Brazil v Holland
Italy v West Germany

That would present this Final line-up:
Brazil v Italy

And the winners? After all that, it's hard to believe that Italy, having got within reach of the World Cup, would fail to become the first nation to win the world's premier soccer event for a record fourth time.

ITALIA'90

THE STARS FOR ITALY

THE OFFICIAL SQUADS

✱ Squad lists were due to be registered with FIFA by May 29. Changes through force majeure could then only be made before the start of the finals with special permission.

ARGENTINA
Goal: Pumpido, Goycochea, Cancelarich.
Defenders: Fabbri, Ruggeri, Sensini, Monzon, Simon, Olarticochea, Serrizuela, Lorenzo, Bauza.
Midfield: Basuaido, Batista, Burrachaga, Giusti, Maradona, Troglio.
Attack: Balbo, Caniggia, Dazotti, Calderon.

AUSTRIA
Goal: Konrad, Konsel, Lindenberger.
Defenders: Aigner, Artner, Baur, Pecl, Pfeffer, Russ, Schottel, Streiter.
Midfield: Flogel, Herzog, Hortnagl, Linzmaier, Reisinger, Zsak.
Attack: Keglevits, A Ogris, Pfeifenberger, Polster, Rodax.

BELGIUM
Goal: Preud'homme, De Wilde, Bodart.
Defenders: Albert, Clijsters, Demol, Gerets, Grun, Plovie, De Wolf, de Sart.
Midfield: Emmers, Scifo, Staelens, Van der Elst, B Versavel, Vervoort.
Attack: Ceulemans, Claesen, Degryse, Van der Linden, Wilmots.

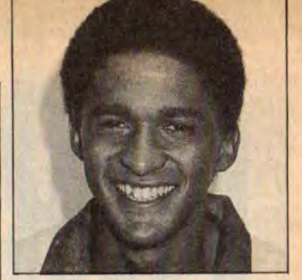
BRAZIL
Goal: Acacio, Taffarel, Ze Carlos.
Defenders: Aldair, Jorginho, Branco, Mazinho, Ricardo Gomes, Ricardo Rocha, Mauro Galvao, Mozer.
Midfield: Silas, Alemao, Dunga, Valdo, Bismarck, Tita.
Attack: Muller, Romario, Bebeto, Careca, Renato.

CAMEROON
From:
Goal: Bell, N'Kono, Bongo'o, Boe.
Defenders: Tataw, Kundo, Onana, Ntamark, Massing, Ndip, Abena, Edwell.
Midfield: Tchakounang, Makansky, Mandegue, Kana, Biyik, Miede, Djonkep, Libih, Mbouch.
Attack: Ebongue, Ekeke, Oman, Biyik.

Anton Pfeffer – Austria.

Gianluca Vialli – Italy.

Alexander Zavarov – Soviet Union.



Valdo – Brazil.

COLOMBIA
Goal: Higuita, Nino.
Defenders: Escobar, Herrera, Perea, Mendoza, Gildardo Gomez, Villa, Hoyos.
Midfield: Valderrama, Alvarez, Ricardo Perez, Redin, Fajardo, Gabriel Jaime Gomez, Cabrera, Rincon.
Attack: Iguaran, Hernandez, Estrada, Guerrero, Trellez.

COSTA RICA
Goal: Conejo, Barrantes, Seguro.
Defenders: Roger Flores, Montero, Obando, Quesada, Gonzalez, Marin, Geovanni Jara.
Midfield: Marchena, Ramirez, Chavez, Davis, Guimaraes, Chavarria.
Attack: Cayasso, Medford, Jaikel, Myers, Gomez, Claudio Jara.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Goal: Stejskal, Miklosko, Paluch.
Defenders: Bielik, Fieber, Bilek, Kadlec, Kinier, Kocian, Straka.
Midfield: Hasek, Hyravy, Chovanec, Kubik, Moravcik, Nemec, Nemecek, Weiss.
Attack: Griga, Knoflicek, Milan Luhovy, Skuhravy.

EGYPT
Goal: Shoubeir, Tahar, El Battal.
Defenders: Hassan, Raba Yassin, Hani Ramzy, Hisham Yakan, Ashraf Kassem, Saber Eid, Ahmed Ramzy.
Midfield: Magdi Tolba, Abdelghana, Souleiman, Ismail, Youssef, Abu Zeld, Mayhoub, El Kas, Osama Orabi.
Attack: Hossam, Hassan, Abdelhamid, Shauki, Abdelrahman.

ENGLAND
Goal: Shilton, Woods, Seaman.
Defenders: Stevens, Parker, Walker, Butcher, Wright, Pearce, Dorigo.
Midfield: Waddle, Steven, Webb, Robson, Gascoigne, Platt, McMahon, Barnes, Hodge.
Attack: Beardsley, Lineker, Bull.

HOLLAND
Goal: Van Breukelen, Manzo, Hiele.
Defenders: Van Tiggelen, R. Koeman, Van Aerle, Rutjen, Blind, Fraser.
Midfield: Rijkaard, Wouters, Wiltschge, Winter, Van't Schip, Vanenburg, E. Koeman.
Attack: Gillhaus, Kieft, Van Basten, Gullit, Roy, Van Loen.

ITALY
Goal: Zenga, Tacconi, Pagliuca.
Defenders: Bergomi, Ferri, Maldini, Franco Baresi, Ferrara, De Agostini, Vierchowod.
Midfield: Ancelotti, Donadoni, De Napoli, Marocchi, Giannini, Berti.
Attack: Baggio, Schillaci, Vialli, Carnevale, Mancini, Serena.

REP IRELAND
Goal: Bonner, Peyton.
Defenders: Hughton, Staunton, Morris, McCarthy, O'Leary, Moran.
Midfield: McGrath, Whelan, Houghton, Townsend, Sheedy, Sheridan, Byrne, Waddock.
Attack: Cascarino, Aldridge, Quinn, David Kelly, Slaven, Stapleton.

RUMANIA
Goal: Iung, Liliac, Stelea.
Defenders: Rednic, G. Popescu, Andone, A. Popescu, Sandof, Klein, Lupescu.
Midfield: Sabau, Mateut, Timofte, Hagi, Rotariu, Dumitrescu, Lupu, Musznai.
Attack: Camataru, Lacatus, Belint, Raducioiu.

SCOTLAND
Goal: Leighton, Goram, Gunn.
Defenders: McKimmie, Malpas, Levein, McLeish, Gillespie, McPherson, MacLeod.
Midfield: Aitken, Bett, Collins, McStay, McCall, McAllister.
Attack: McCoist, Johnston, Durie, McInally, Cooper.

SOUTH KOREA
Goal: Kim Pung-joo, Jeong Gi-dong, Choi In-young.
Defenders: Chung Yong-hwan, Yoon Deuk-yo, Choi Kang-hee, Chung Jong-soo, Hong Myung-bo, Cho Min-kook.
Midfield: Hwangbo-kwan, Lee Young-jin, Chung Hoe-won, Kim Joo-sung, Lee Sang-yoon, Lee Heung-sil, No Soo-jin.

SOVIET UNION
Goal: Dasayev, Chanov, Uverov.
Defenders: Besonov, Demianenko, Kuznetsov, Tsveiba, Rats, Khidiatulin, Gorlukovich, Fokin.
Midfield: Laremchuk, Litovchenko, Zigmantovich, Aleinikov, Shalimov, Broshin.
Attack: Protasov, Dobrovolski, Liuty, Borodyuk, Zavarov.

SPAIN
Goal: Zubizarreta, Ochotorena, Ablanedo.
Defenders: Chendo, Sanchis, Hierro, Jimenez, Andrinua, Alkorta, Gorriz, Quique.
Midfield: Michel, Martin Vazquez, Roberto, Rafa Paz, Fernando, Villaroyo.
Attack: Manolo, Butragueno, Salinas, Bakero, Pardeza.

SWEDEN
Goal: Ravelli, Sven Andersson, Lars Eriksson.
Defenders: Jan Eriksson, Hysen, Peter Larsson, Ljung, Roland Nilsson, Nyhlen, Schwarz.
Midfield: Engqvist, Ingesson, Jansson, Limpar, Joakim Nilsson, Stromberg, Thern.
Attack: Brolin, Ekstrom, Gren, Magnusson, Pettersson.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
From:
Goal: Qadar Hasen, Musabah, Amas Mubarek.
Defenders: Khalil Mubarak, Helal, Ghanim Mubarak, Abdulla, Al Haddad, Rabeea, Hussain, Ibrahim Meer, Eise Meer.
Midfield: Talyahi, Ibrahim, El Ehawi, Nasser Mubarak, Fahad Khamis, Al Shaibani.
Attack: Al Nuwais, Abdul Rahman, Khador, Saeed.

UNITED STATES
Goal: Keller, Meola, Vanole.
Defenders: Armstrong, Balboa, Banks, Krumpe, Trittschuh, Windischmann.
Midfield: Bliss, Caligiuri, Covone, Harkes, Henderson, Ramos, Stollmeyer.
Attack: Eichmann, Murray, Sullivan, Vermes, Wynalda.

URUGUAY
Goal: Zeoli, Pereira, Ferro.
Defenders: Gutierrez, De Leon, Herrera, Pintos Saldanha, Perdomo, Dominguez, Revelez.
Midfield: Ostolaza, Francescoli, Bengoechea, Fonseca, Paz, Correa, Ruben Pereira.
Attack: Sosa, Alzamendi, Aguilera, Martinez.

WEST GERMANY
Goal: Illgner, Aumann, Kopke.
Defenders: Augenthaler, Berthold, Brehme, Buchwald, Kohler, Pflugler, Reuter, Steiner.
Midfield: Matthaus, Littbarski, Thon, Hassler, Moller, Bein, Hermann.
Attack: Klinsmann, Voller, Mill, Riedle.

YUGOSLAVIA
Goal: Ivkovic, Omerovic, Lekovic.
Defenders: Vulic, Baljic, Hadzibegic, Jozic, Spasic, Stanojkovic, Jarni.
Midfield: Dragoljub Brnovic, Panadic, Sabanadzovic, Katanec, Susic, Savicevic, Stojkovic, Prosenecki.
Attack: Zlatko Vujovic, Pancev, Suker, Boksic.

Luca wins his race against time

From Jane Nottage in Rome

AS SOON as the league finished on April 29, the Italians went into over-drive to try to get all the World Cup stadia finished on time.

Organising director Luca Di Montezemolo had long ago resigned himself to the frustration that much of the ancillary work will not be finished (or, in some cases, even started). But plenty has been achieved, which may surprise the world's media.

When the Press descend on us they will find facilities they never enjoyed before thanks to the world's most comprehensive data bank and monitors in the press stands so they don't have to tire themselves by wandering down to the mayhem of the after-match press conference.

Not only will the match be shown on the monitors but also the press conferences. Then it will all be recorded so that they can come back the next day and check the facts – and let's hope in the name of professionalism that they do check their facts.

For the thousands of fans, or rather the 2.3 million fans who will fill the stadia, there will be a nice surprise, 12 of the most modern, comfortable and above all safe stadia in the world. All-numbered, all-seater stadia which will be important not only for the World Cup but also for the future of Italian football.

What about segregation? For the first phase, that's no problem. After all we know who's playing whom and when. But after that ... how can the Italians segregate fans when they don't know who will qualify, where they will play or against whom.

Security is being taken seriously, and the security forces are ready to deal with whatever they have to. Let's just hope that everyone remembers that this is the world's greatest footballing event – a celebration of the world's greatest talent, not a battle field.

Talking of celebrations, the 20 minute opening ceremony should be spectacular. It will be a demonstration of the fruits of the great city of Milan, which houses the famous La Scala Opera House and is the centre of the fashion industry. The plans are a brief festival of music and twirling designs combined with the greatest of its footballing history.

Remember that the Stadio Meazza is home to Milan and Internazionale.

Lined-up

So all in all, what else do the Italians have lined up for you? 52 matches played by 24 of the World's best, in 12 of the most modern and architecturally beautiful stadia.

Bring your girlfriend or wife and she'll be able to amuse herself at one of the many exhibitions that will take place, if you're a Ferrari fan you can go and see the exhibition of Ferraris, if you're an opera lover don't miss the spectacular concert planned the night before the Final, when three of the world's greatest tenors – Pavarotti, Domingo and Carraras – will sing together for the first time in Rome's lovely old amphitheatre.

If high culture doesn't interest you, take off and explore the parts of Italy that no-one has discovered. The beauty of the mountains around Udine, the clear, sparkling water in Sicily and Calabria, the superb wines in Tuscany, the history and beauty of cities like Bologna and of course the famous sights, Pompeii, the Colosseum.

Don't forget that this isn't just a month of football, it's also a month when Italy will put its best foot forward and show the world why it is now the world's fifth most industrialised nation, why it is famous for fashion and style, why it has the reputation for the best food and wine in the world... not to mention football.

Luca Di Montezemolo.

FORM GUIDE

ARGENTINA

* The World Cup holders have immense problems both in scoring goals and winning games. Maradona has slimmed himself to top shape and form but without effective support even he cannot win the Cup single-handed. The awkward Opening Games against Cameroon will be of vital importance to morale and team spirit.
* Prospects: Semi-finalists if Maradona is at his best.
*** Finals record:**
1930 SILVER
1934 eliminated first round
1958 eliminated first round
1962 eliminated first round
1966 quarter-finals
1974 eliminated second round
1978 GOLD
1982 eliminated second round
1986 GOLD

AUSTRIA

* Lean heavily on the goal-scoring talents of Toni Polster and Gerhard Rodax. But opponents will under-estimate Austria at their peril – as their 3-2 warm-up win in Spain proved.
* Prospects: Second round should be the end of the road.
*** Finals record:**
1934 fourth
1954 bronze
1958 eliminated first round
1978 eliminated second round
1982 eliminated second round

BELGIUM

* Returning manager Guy Thys will ensure that Belgium are as pragmatic as ever. But they have played few warm-up matches and need to undertake an awful lot of concentrated work if they are to come anywhere near matching their excellent campaign in Mexico.
* Prospects: In theory should be worth second round or quarter-finals. In practice they might struggle to get beyond the opening groups.
*** Finals record:**
1930 eliminated first round
1934 eliminated first round
1938 eliminated first round
1954 eliminated first round
1970 eliminated first round
1982 eliminated second round
1986 fourth

BRAZIL

* Among the favourites. Some of their warm-up displays and results have been erratic but no-one could miss the underlying quality and self-confidence. Should obviously benefit from the fact that so many of their leading players are currently playing for top Italian clubs.
* Prospects: Possible winners. At the least, semi-finalists.
*** Finals record:**
1930 eliminated first round
1934 eliminated first round
1938 bronze
1950 silver
1954 quarter-finals
1958 GOLD
1962 GOLD
1966 eliminated first round
1970 GOLD
1974 fourth
1978 bronze
1982 eliminated second round
1986 quarter-finals

Colombia's 'keeper Rene Higuita.

CAMEROON

* The Opening Game will be a tremendous stage for Africa's representatives. After that the finals could prove an anti-climax.
* Prospects: Will do well not to finish bottom of the group.
*** Finals record:**
1982 eliminated first round

COLOMBIA

* Keeper Higuita will no doubt delight the neutrals but at this level of the game Colombia may find themselves short of firepower in attack.
* Prospects: Will be doing well to reach the second round.
*** Finals record:**
1962 eliminated first round

COSTA RICA

* Perhaps the weakest team at the finals. Managerial and selection changes have not helped though losing 'only' 1-0 to Wales recently was a useful result for morale.
* Prospects: Bottom in the group.
*** Finals record:**
–

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

* Awkward opponents for Italy in particular, with plenty of skill and a lot of players from all phases of the team who can score goals.
* Prospects: Second round.
*** Finals record:**
1934 silver
1938 quarter-finals
1954 eliminated first round
1958 eliminated first round
1962 silver
1970 eliminated first round
1982 eliminated first round

EGYPT

* Skilful and quick in attack but their short-fuse temperament has always been their worst enemy in the past.
* Prospects: Bottom of the group.
*** Finals record:**
1934 eliminated first round

ENGLAND

* Comparing squads sees England appear as the most experienced and one of the oldest. If they can conquer opening round nerves they can give the fans at home plenty to follow. Unfortunately, the fans in Sardinia may steal the headlines – and that would, in turn, unsettle the team.
* Prospects: Quarter-finals at the least.
*** Finals record:**
1950 eliminated first round
1954 quarter-finals
1958 eliminated first round
1962 quarter-finals
1966 GOLD
1970 quarter-finals
1982 eliminated second round
1986 quarter-finals

HOLLAND

* No other team could come to a World Cup so highly-regarded after all their managerial and injury problems. Van Basten, Rijkaard, Koeman and even a half-fit Gullit will give Holland much more class and quality – and goal-scoring potential – than most of the rest.
* Prospects: Semi-finals.
*** Finals record:**
1934 eliminated first round
1938 eliminated first round
1974 silver
1978 silver

ITALY

* Everything is in the hosts' favour. All they have to do is win. That is the burden of pressure which could more of a problem to the Azzurri than anything the opposition can throw at them. But they should be helped in the first round by the inevitable cautious approach which their group rivals will take. As long as the Baresi-Giannini-Vialli axis approaches its potential, Italy will hit their stride just right in the second phase of the finals.
* Prospects: Likely winners.
*** Finals record:**
1934 GOLD
1938 GOLD
1950 eliminated first round
1954 eliminated first round
1962 eliminated first round
1966 eliminated first round
1970 silver
1974 eliminated first round
1978 fourth
1982 GOLD
1986 eliminated second round

REP IRELAND

* At the finals for the first time and will provide difficult opposition for everyone. Players such as Ronnie Whelan, Ray Houghton, John Aldridge and Paul McGrath have just the right levels of skill and experience to bring the Irish safely through the first round.
* Prospects: Second round.
*** Finals record:**

RUMANIA

* Stars such as Hagi and Lacatus will be playing for their own futures as well as for Rumania. That could turn them into quite intimidating opposition and the Rumania matches may need strong refereeing.
* Prospects: Second round if they can maintain a temperamental discipline to match their tactical expertise.
*** Finals record:**
1930 eliminated first round
1934 eliminated first round
1938 eliminated first round
1970 eliminated first round

SCOTLAND

* The warm-up matches were little short of disastrous. Scotland have some outstanding footballers but coach Andy Roxburgh may gauge the size of his challenge by taking a shivery look back over Scotland's depressing World Cup history.
* Prospects: To reach the second round would be an achievement in the circumstances.
*** Finals record:**
1954 eliminated first round
1958 eliminated first round
1974 eliminated first round
1978 eliminated first round
1982 eliminated first round
1986 eliminated first round

SOUTH KOREA

* Physical strength will again be the Koreans' achilles heel, as it was in Mexico. They may also pay a heavy penalty for not being more active on the warm-up front against European opposition in Europe.
* Prospects: First round elimination.
*** Finals record:**
1954 eliminated first round
1986 eliminated first round

SOVIET UNION

* Always start such events like an express and then run out of steam. Injury fears over Mikhailichenko will not help nor the fact that most of their foreign-based stars have not been able to share in manager Lobanovsky's warm-up programme.
* Prospects: Second round.
*** Finals record:**
1958 quarter-finals
1962 quarter-finals
1966 fourth
1970 quarter-finals
1982 eliminated second round
1986 eliminated second round

SPAIN

* Generally over-valued, though this time they do appear to possess an excellent balance between defence (Zubizarreta, Sanchis), midfield (Martin Vazquez, Michel and attack (Butragueno, Salinas). But manager Luis Suarez needs his Madrid and Barcelona stars to forget the events of the season just gone.
* Prospects: Quarter-finals.
*** Finals record:**
1934 quarter-finals
1950 fourth
1962 eliminated first round
1966 eliminated first round
1978 eliminated first round
1982 eliminated second round
1986 quarter-finals

SWEDEN

* Good, solid, experienced side – though manager Olle Nordin has gambled on the inclusion in his squad of several little-known youngsters such as Tomas Brolin in attack just to keep opponents guessing.
* Prospects: Dangerous dark horses who may well be seen in the quarter-finals.
*** Finals record:**
1934 quarter-finals
1938 fourth
1950 bronze
1958 silver
1970 eliminated first round
1974 eliminated second round
1978 eliminated first round

Ruben Sosa of Uruguay.

Jurgen Klinsmann – West German striker.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

* Now into their third manager in six months. At least Carlos Alberto Parreira will do his best to seal up the defence which was the secret of their surprise qualifying success.
* Prospects: Bottom of the group.
*** Finals record:**
–

UNITED STATES

* No other national team has worked as hard preparing for the finals. But the World Cup is a different world to friendlies against Iceland, Malta and Partizan Belgrade's reserves.
* Prospects: Anything other than bottom of the group will be excellent.
*** Finals record:**
1930 semi-finals
1934 eliminated first round
1950 eliminated first round

URUGUAY

* Always tough, always skilful, always dangerous – always difficult to play against. If the Uruguayans concentrate on feeding the attacking skills of Sosa and Francescoli they can go a long way. If they fall back into their bad old ways they will make an early exit.
* Prospects: Second round.
*** Finals record:**
1930 GOLD
1950 GOLD
1954 fourth
1962 eliminated first round
1966 quarter-finals
1970 fourth
1974 eliminated first round
1986 eliminated second round

WEST GERMANY

* Team chief Franz Beckenbauer has been forecasting for several years that his team would be at their peak about now. The varied quality of attackers, midfielders and defenders will benefit enormously from the Italian experience of the likes of Matthaus, Brehme, Voller, Berthold and Klinsmann. That should also help them with the crowds.
* Prospects: Semi-finalists and possible winners.
*** Finals record:**
1934 (as Germany) bronze
1938 (as Greater Germany) eliminated first round
1954 GOLD
1958 fourth
1962 quarter-finals
1966 silver
1970 bronze
1974 GOLD
1978 eliminated second round
1982 silver
1986 silver

YUGOSLAVIA

* Badly weakened in attack by the suspension of Bazdarevic, the dropping of Boban for his part in the Zagreb riot, and the ommissions of Jakovljevic and Mihajlovic. Stojkovic has an awfully heavy burden to carry virtually single-handed.
* Prospects: Second round – if they're lucky.
*** Finals record:**
1930 semi-finals
1950 eliminated first round
1954 quarter-finals
1958 quarter-finals
1962 fourth
1974 eliminated second round
1982 eliminated first round

What they say ...

ROBERTO BAGGIO (Italy): "Brazil, West Germany, Argentina and Italy will be the last four at the World Cup. The one team who worry me are Czechoslovakia. They could cause us a lot of problems in the first round."

MARIO ZAGALO former manager of Brazil and United Arab Emirates; World Cup-winning player with Brazil in 1958 and 1962): "Brazil look the best-balanced of the finalists when you consider the sum total of defence, midfield and attack. There is no Maradona in the team but there are plenty of leaders within the team. As for the jogo bonito, I only want to see that allied to tactical commonsense. Beauty on its own is only for women. England need to change their game a little. I like English football but you always know that the ball will be crossed in from outside the penalty area. They need to vary their game more to improve standards."

GIUSEPPE BERGOMI (Italy): "In 1982 we were more relaxed than we are now. But that change is inevitable because of the pressure from playing at home. I still think this will be a great advantage to us. Of the rest I think West Germany are best equipped to win the World Cup. They have a special kind of character which always sees to it that they perform well in major competitions."

DIEGO MARADONA (Argentina): "You know, one of my ambitions has always been to set an Argentine for the number of games played in the World Cup finals. I need seven for the record. If we get to the Final it's mine!"

JOAO HAVELANGE (FIFA president): "Football is a game and must remain a game. It should be regarded by everyone as a match between two opposing teams but never as a battle between enemies. Defeat is not a disaster and victory does not confer the title of conqueror of the world."

VALERI LOBANOVSKY (Soviet Union manager): "I don't think there is any one great team at this World Cup but there are seven or eight who could win it."

KIM JOO-SUNG (South Korea; Asian Footballer of the Year): "We have spent a lot of time watching videos of our World Cup opponents, Belgium, Uruguay and Spain and I feel we know them pretty well and how we need to play against them. We will go out to try to win each game. But whether we win or lose we want to play well, to show people the strength of the game in Asia."

SOCRATES (former Brazil World Cup star): "Brazil play a more defensive game now. It's not so pretty and they should do well. But you never know. In 1982 they said we lost because we attacked too much. In the current team fail they will say it's because we defended too much."

CHARLES NTAMARK (Cameroon): "It may be that I will be marking Maradona in the Opening Match. We know all about him – but he doesn't know anything about me."

CLAUDIO CANIGGIA (Argentina): "I am sure Argentina will be in the last fourwith Italy, Brazil and Holland or West Germany. Why? Because we have Maradona, the best footballer in the world."

OLEG PROTASOV (Soviet Union): "I think Italy will win the World Cup. Their fans will insist on it! I've been to Italy many times and I've seen what soccer means to the nation. I daren't think what will happen if Italy do not win. Brazil, Holland and West Germany will be the other semi-finalists. That's what my head says. My heart, of course, wants the Soviet Union to win the World Cup but, though I'll do my best to help us achieve that, I think the prospects are very difficult."

ENZO BEARZOT (Italy's 1982 Cup-winning manager): "The World Cup is a fascinating but terrible competition. So while Austria, Czechoslovakia and the United States shouldn't trouble us we should not underestimate them. As for the tactics, I think we will see everyone understanding that the best way to defend is to reinforce midfield and protect defence. But you do not the need the right sort of players. Brazil are among my favourites for the World Cup. England I like. West Germany and Holland as well but also Yugoslavia. Remember, there is always an outsider who does well at the World Cup..."

ITALIA'90

The men who pull the strings

Brazil's Lazaroni with his squad.

Sweden boss Nordin shows the way to glory.

ARGENTINA

Carlos BILARDO. Aged 52. Learnt his football as a midfield player with Estudiantes de La Plata in the late 1960s. Estudiantes won the South American Club Cup three years in a row and the World Club Cup in 1968. Bilardo's first World Cup coaching experience was in the 1978 qualifiers when he managed Colombia. Then managed his old club Estudiantes before succeeding Cesar Menotti as Argentina manager in 1983.

AUSTRIA

Josef HICKERSBERGER. Aged 42. Took over from Yugoslav Branko Elsner in December 1987. As a player he had starred in midfield for FK Austria then West German clubs Kickers Offenbach andc Fortuna Dusseldorf before returning to SSW Innsbruck and Rapid Vienna. Hickersberger gained 39 caps and played in the 1978 World Cup finals. Later he managed two amateur clubs (Pama and Forchtenstein) and then second division Traisen before joining the federation staff.

BELGIUM

Guy THYS. Aged 67. Spent 11 years as a player with Beerschot, forming a dangerous attacking partnership with the famous Rik Coppens in the early 1950s. Later played for Standard Liege and Cercle Brugge before retiring. Coached Beveren, Union Saint-Gilloise and Antwerp before succeeding Raymond Goethals as national manager in 1977. Thys retired last summer but was recalled in meergenbcy this spring after the dismissal of Walter Meeuws.

BRAZIL

Sebastiao Barroso LAZARONI. Aged 39. Began as a goalkeeper with Sao Cristo-vao in Rio. Retired in his early 20s to concentrate on coaching. In the mid-1980s he emerged from obscurity to lead Flamengo and then Vasco da Gama to the Rio championship. In 1988 Lazaroni took up a Saudi Arabian club contract with Al Ahly but stayed only six months. He was appointed Brazil manager at the start of last year and guided Brazil to success in the 1989 South American championship.

CAMEROON

Valeri NEPOMNIACHI. Aged 45. Born in Siberia and played most of his active career with the provincial Dynamo Samarkand. At 23 Nepomniachi's career was halted by a knee injury. He turned to coaching and, in due course, was appointed state youth coach in Turkmenistan. Later he worked as assistant to Soviet national boss Valeri Lobanovsky before being appointed as Cameroon manager in December 1988 in succession to Claude Leroy.

COLOMBIA

Francisco MATURANA. Aged 40. A dentist who is also coach to South American club champions, Atletico Nacional of Medellin. Maturana played for Nacional for 11 years, for Deportivo Cali and then for Tolima and Bucaramanga before retiring in 1983. He won championship medals twice for Nacional and was a member of their runners-up team on three occasions as well as a runner-up with Tolima. A central defender, he played for Colombia 24 times.

COSTA RICA

Velibor 'Bora' MILUTINOVIC. Aged 49. Former Yugoslav youth international. Bora is the fourth manager Costa Rica have appointed for this World Cup campaign, having been named in March to succeed Marvin Rodriguez. Comes from a famous footballing family. Played in Yugoslavia, France, Switzerland and Mexico. Turned successfully to coaching with UNAM of Mexico City and managed hosts Mexico to a best-ever quarter-finals placing at the last World Cup.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Josef VENGLOS. Aged 53. Played ten years at left half for Slovan Bratislava but never played a full international. Later graduated in philosophy and physical education. He was briefly manager of the Australian national team. Then he returned home as national team aide before taking up a coaching post in Portugal with Sporting Lisbon. Was national manager when Czechoslovakia lost in the first round of the 1982 finals, was dismissed and reappointed in 1988.

EGYPT

Mahmoud EL-GOHARI. Aged 52. A playing hero in the 1950s when he lined up on the left wing for Al Ahly of Cairo and for the national team. El-Gohari made his club and international debuts at 19. Two years later in 1959, he was three-goal top scorer in the African Nations' Cup finals. He totalled 11 goals in 21 internationals. Later entered the army, rising to the rank of colonel before becoming Egypt boss in September, 1988.

ENGLAND

Robert 'Bobby' ROBSON. Aged 57. Former international inside right and midfielder who played 20 times for England and was a member of the World Cup squads of 1958 in Sweden and 1962 in Chile. Robson played his club football with Fulham and West Bromwich. He entered management with Fulham then Vancouver before earning a major reputation at Ipswich, whom he took to victory in the FA Cup and UEFA Cup. Succeeded Ron Greenwood in 1982.

HOLLAND

Leo BEENHAKKER. Aged 47. Forced to retire by injury at 26. Coached Veendam and Go-Ahead Eagles before taking up youth appointments with Feyenoord when Ajax. Was promoted to Ajax coach and did so well he was snapped up by Spain's Zaragoza. Returned briefly to Holland with Volendam, stood in as caretaker national manager for a short spell, then returned to Spain for four hugely successful years with Real Madrid. Came home to Ajax last year and is 'on loan' to the KNVB as successor to the controversial Thys Libregts.

ITALY

Azeglio VICINI. Aged 57. Began with Cesena from 1951 to 1953 and then moved into the first division, spending three years with Lanerossi Vicenza and seven with Sampdoria – first as an orthodox outside right, then in midfield. Ended his playing career in 1965 after two seasons with Brescia. Spent a year on the club's coaching staff before joining the federation. Graduated to manage the Olympic and under-21 teams and succeeded Enzo Bearzot after the last World Cup.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Jack CHARLTON. Aged 55. World Cup-winning centre back with England in 1966 alongside more famous brother Bobby. Jack played 35 times for England and spent all his club career with Leeds. He was a surprise appointment by the Irish – the first non-Irishman to hold the managerial reins – in February 1986. / In 1988 he took them to the finals of a major tournament for the first time, in the European championship. The Irish very nearly reached the semi-finals.

RUMANIA

Emerich JENEI. Aged 53. A Merited Master of Sport and a professor of physical education. He was a Rumanian youth international and played for Steaua Bucharest (then known as CCA) between 1956 and 1969. After retiring he began work as a coach in Turkey and returned to run the Steaua youth section in 1971. He became first-team coach in 1975, won the league-and-cup double at first attempt, the European Cup in 1986 and switched to national coach a year later.

SCOTLAND

Andy ROXBURGH. Aged 46. One-time schoolteacher. Played as a striker with Queen's Park, Falkirk, Partick and East Stirlingshire Clydebank (now defunct). Entered coaching with Clydebank and was then appointed to the Scottish FA staff in 1975. In 1982 he guided Scotland to victory in the European youth championship. Even though he hwas director of coaching it was still a surprise when he was appointed, in 1986, as successor to Alex Ferguson.

SOUTH KOREA

LEE Hoe-taik. Aged 43. Between 1966 and 1980 Lee played around 50 times for the South Korean national team, mostly at centre forward. After retiring he was appointed by the federation as an assistant on the national coaching staff in 1984. Two years later he moved briefly into the club world with Daewoo Royals. But at the end of 1988 he returned to the federation as national manager charged with bringing South Korea safely through the World Cup qualifiers.

SOVIET UNION

Valeri LOBANOVSKY. Aged 51. Will step down as manager of the national team after the World Cup, though whether he will maintain his joint post as Kiev Dynamo boss is uncertain. Lobanovsky was an outside left who, while with Kiev in the 1950s, played twice for the Soviet Union. He spent a year with Chernomorets Odessa and another two with Shakhtyor Donetsk before retiring to concentrate on coaching. He is the most influential individual in Soviet soccer today.

SPAIN

Luis SUAREZ. Aged 55. Spain's greatest-ever home-grown footballer, who played 32 times for his country. Suarez played in midfield for Barcelona then Internazionale of Italy and remains the only Spanish-born player to have been crowned European Footballer of the Year. After winning everything with Inter and playing briefly with Sampdoria, he retired. Suarez coached at Genoa, Cagliari, Spal and Inter before returning to Spain. He became national manager in 1988.

SWEDEN

Olle NORDIN. Aged 40. Took over in 1986 from Lars Arnesson who stepped down the previous autumn after the failure to qualify for the Mexico World Cup finals. Nordin was a midfielder with Sundsvall, Norrkoping and then IFK Gothenburg and played 19 times for Sweden between 1970 and 1979. After being forced to retire because of knee trouble, he switched to coaching as assistant at IFK then as senior coach with Vsstra Frolunda and Valerengen.

TURN TO PAGE 18

ENGLAND AWAY ENGLAND HOME ENGLAND 3rd
ENGLAND GOALKEEPER AWAY ENGLAND GOALKEEPER HOME

SCOTLAND HOME SCOTLAND AWAY
SCOTLAND GOALKEEPER HOME SCOTLAND GOALKEEPER AWAY

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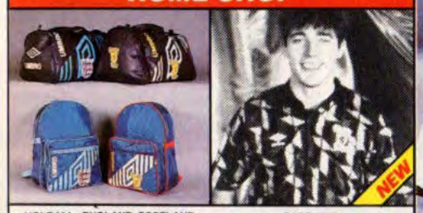

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STADIA ON TOP OF THE WORLD

The Stadio Sant'Elia where England and the Republic of Ireland kick-off their Group F matches.

THE 14th World Cup Finals Tournament will be held in 12 stadiums throughout Italy. They have all been modernised and made all-seater to comply with FIFA rules at a cost of around £230 million.

BARI: Stadio Comunale

World Cup capacity: 56,874
'Real' capacity: 60,000
BARI, just above the heel of Italy on the Adriatic east coast, is one of two host cities – Turin is the other – which will benefit from the World Cup finals with a new stadium.

The Nuovo Comunale is a municipally-owned venue which has been built south of the centre of Bari, a city with a population of 362,000.

It replaces the old Stadio Comunale, which had a capacity of 40,400 but was rarely filled over the years since the local club, Bari, have spent most of their 82 years in the second division.

Their most recent first division spell was in the mid-1980s when English forwards Paul Rideout and Gordon Cowans were local heroes in the old stadium.

Italy have played only four full internationals in the old Bari stadium. The first was on December 14, 1947, when Italy beat Czechoslovakia 3-1 with a team which included eight members of the great champions Torino.

International team captain and sweeper Franco Baresi has a very special affection for the old stadium.

It was here, in October, 1983, that he celebrated his senior debut for Italy in a 3-0 win over Greece in a friendly.

BOLOGNA: Stadio Renato Dall'Ara

World Cup capacity: 38,000
'Real' capacity 40,782
BOLOGNA is one of Italy's most famous old soccer cities. The local club were a power in the land – and in Central Europe – in the 1930s and was among the first to profit from a major investment in foreign imports. One such leading light was Uruguayan Michele Andreolo, who played centre-half in Italy's victorious 1938 World Cup line-up.

For many years Bologna was also the home of a daily sports newspaper, Stadio. In the early 1960s the city was the centre of controversy as the only Italian team apparently capable of standing up to the juggernaut team assembled by famous coach Helenio Herrera at Inter Milan. With such a tradition there was no way Bologna could have been overlooked for the World Cup – though stadium redevelopment has not been without incident, including the tragic death of a construction worker.

The first international in Bologna was Italy's 2-2 draw with Switzerland in December, 1922. That was on an old site which was redeveloped four years later for the ground now known as the Stadio Renato Dall'Ara – having been later renamed in honour of Bologna's championship-winning club president in 1964. The remodelled Dall'Ara stadium has a 40,000 capacity. Extra work has cost £16million.

CAGLIARI: Stadio Sant'Elia

World Cup capacity: 41,000
'Real' capacity: 42,855.
THE Stadio Sant'Elia in Cagliari is the newest of the 'old' stadia which will host the World Cup finals. Construction was completed in 1970 and the stadium originally had a 59,972 seating capacity with room for 10,000 more standing.

This was later reduced by the inclusion of extra seating. Now the needs of the World Cup – Press, television and newspapers, VIPs, special security – means capacity will be further cut to 42,855 by the time England and the Republic of Ireland appear for the opening match in Group F on June 11.

Redevelopment work has not been without problems. A budget of around £40million was upset by unexpected difficulties with the new turf and tendering problems which ruled out the prospects of building new access roads in time for the World Cup.

Cagliari was put on the soccer map only in the mid-1960s when the local club reached the first division for the first time. Their luck was to have discovered one of Italy's greatest marksmen, Gigi Riva, whose goals, in 1970, lifted Cagliari to a remarkable league title and Italy to the World Cup Final.

The first international in Sardinia was played in the old Amsicora stadium, when Italy beat Switzerland 4-0 in a European championship qualifier in December, 1967. Local hero Riva scored one of the goals.

The first international in the Sant'Elia was on February 20, 1971. This time Italy lost 2-1 to Spain.

ITALIA'90

FLORENCE: Stadio Comunale

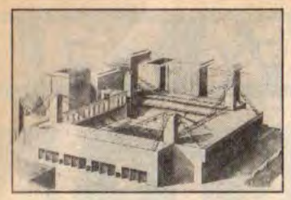
World Cup capacity: 44,781
'Real' capacity: 49,033.
FLORENCE is renowned worldwide as the centre of European renaissance art.

Florence also boasts an outstanding soccer club in Fiorentina, though their achievements tend to have been overshadowed by those of the Milan and Turin giants. Fiorentina were first winners of the European Cup-winners' Cup in 1961 and, of course, runners-up this past season in the UEFA Cup.

Not that the Comunale saw much of the European action. Redevelopment work was so involved that Fiorentina had to play their midweek European ties this past season at Perugia – until they were banned from there by UEFA and had to switch for the second leg of the final to Lecce.

Designed in 1932 by Pier Luigi Nervi, the Comunale is a listed national monument so redevelopment work around it was necessarily limited. Inside, however, the pitch has been lowered, the athletics track has been scrapped, an extra tier of seats has been installed and the two ends of the main stand have been rebuilt. A swimming pool beneath the main stand and underground car parks have also helped raise the redevelopment cost to £18million.

It was originally built with the 1934 World Cup finals in mind. It had a 32,000 capacity.



GENOA: Stadio Luigi Ferraris

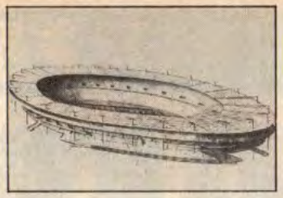
World Cup capacity: 44,600
GENOA is one of those stadia which is considered as among the World Cup venues being "redeveloped." In fact, it is being almost entirely rebuilt – which caused temporary problems for home teams Sampdoria and Genoa.

The Stadio Luigi Ferraris was originally built in the via Giovanni de Pra in 1928. It was considered a model stadium of the time, fit to grace the city where soccer in Italy had its birth. Capacity in the boom years of the early 1950s was considered as 75,000. But the changing expectations of fans led to an increase in seating and a corresponding decrease in capacity. By the mid-1970s a full house was 55,000 and the total restructuring for the World Cup will mean a 40,000-seat stadium.

Architect Vittorio Gregotti decided that the best way to work was to knock down and rebuild half a stadium at a time – which is what he has done.

Only Turin and Milan have been staging international football longer than the city of Genoa.

The first major occasion was a 3-1 Italian defeat at the hands of Austria in December, 1912. The inaugural international in the Stadio Ferraris was a 2-0 win over Czechoslovakia in December, 1936.



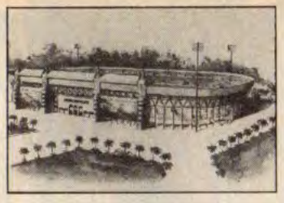
NAPLES: Stadio San Paolo

World Cup capacity: 74,090
'Real' capacity: 86,000
NAPLES will be one of the liveliest of World Cup venues. For one thing, it's role as the week-by-week stage for Napoli and Diego Maradona made it the obvious choice as 'home' for Argentina's defending world champions. Secondly, the volatility of local politics meant there would always be uncertainties about the redevelopment work.

Then there is also the undeniable fact that the volatiltity of the fans means the San Paolo has collected more suspensions than any other Italian stadium.

Also known, for the locality, as the Fuorigrotta, the Stadio San Paolo is one of the post-war generation of Italian stadia. The first stone was formally laid on April 27, 1957, and the official opening was a Napoli v Juventus league match on December 6, 1959.

The capacity was then of 70,000. Later development took the ceiling up to 85,000 but the installation of extra seating then reduced that to the 75,000 places. The World Cup capacity will remain at 75,000 thanks to a £24million redevelopment.



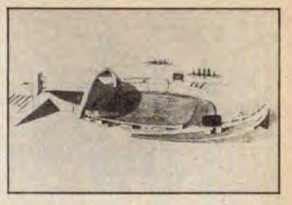
PALERMO: Stadio Della Favorita

World Cup capacity: 36,630
'Real' capacity: 40,500
THIS will be one of the most southerly European venues ever to stage World Cup finals matches. The only rivals for that odd piece of history are Seville and Malaga in Spain, which are on a similar latitude.

Only three years ago the Favorita was in danger of falling into disuse after the Palermo soccer club went into liquidation and were expelled from the league. A last-minute salvage operation saved the day but Favorita remains, in domestic terms, a third division stadium.

When Palermo were alternating between first and second divisions in the 1950s and 1960s the stadium capacity was 40,000. At one time redevelopment was in jeopardy after the death of four workmen in a tragic accident. But politically Sicily had to remain in the World Cup schedule.

Palermo is a long way off the beaten track of most of the rest of the World Cup action. The nearest other venue is Naples, which is 400 miles to the north. Hardly surprising then that international football is returning this year to Palermo for the first time since Italy's debut there on December 28, 1952, in a 2-0 win over Switzerland 2-0 in a friendly.



UDINE: Stadio Friuli

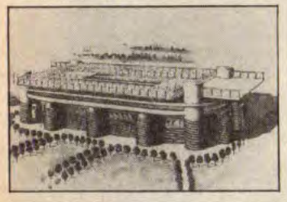
World Cup capacity: 38,685
'Real' capacity: 42,133
UDINE is a city which may be familiar to Austrian and German tourists on their way down to the Adriatic riviera. It lies in the north-eastern Friuli region of Italy which includes Dino Zoff, Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning captain, among its most famous sons.

The Stadio Friuli was one of the most trouble-free of all the World Cup venues. Built with a 30,000 capacity only 14 years ago, the stadium has proved ideally designed for expansion.

A comparatively minor sum of £9.5million was 'all' that was needed to be spent – and most of that has gone on media facilities and car parking arrangements.

Udinese, the local club, have fluctuated between first and second divisions despite occasional ambitious attempts to bring in some of the game's big names – Brazilian star Zico played for Udinese in the early 1980s.

Italy's first international in the Friuli was against Switzerland in November, 1979, and resulted in a 2-0 win for the host nation. This was followed by a goalless draw against East Germany in April, 1981, and 2-1 win over Austria five years later.



MILAN: Giuseppe Meazza

World Cup capacity: 83,107.
HERE, to the north-west of Milan, is where the Italia '90 spectacular begins. For it is the Meazza which will stage the Opening Match featuring defending title-holders, Argentina against Cameroon.

It is a municipally-owned stadium which is shared by the two great city rivals, Milan and Internazionale. It has hosted major pop concerts but its main function is football. There is no running track to distance fans from the action and the tiers rise sheer from the pitch like great, steep cliffs of sound.

A friendly between Milan and Inter was the first match played in the Stadio Calcistico San Siro, as it was then known, on September 19, 1926. Capacity was just 35,000 and the stadium was privately-owned. But in 1936 the civic authorities bought the stadium, carried out the first major development work and thus took its capacity up to 45,000.

Further construction followed in 1954, completing the second tier and almost doubling capacity. Now a massive £24million redevelopment is being completed.

Milan was also a venue at the 1968 and 1980 European nations' championship finals and has hosted finals in all three European club tournaments. It was renamed after the city's great pre-war World Cup hero, Giuseppe Meazza, in 1979.

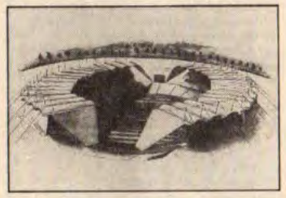
ROME: Stadio Olimpico

World Cup capacity: 85,000.
ON JULY 8 the Olimpico will qualify to rank alongside Wembley and the Olimpiastadion in Munich as the only three current soccer grounds on earth to have played host to both the Olympic Games and the World Cup Final. Yet although Rome staged the Olympics in 1960, the stadium itself was opened in 1953 and the first soccer match was played on May 17 that year. The omen was a bad one for Italy – they lost 3-0 to the all-conquering Hungarians.

After the 1960 Olympics, the next major event was the 1968 European nations' championship finals.

It was in Rome that Liverpool first won the European Champions' Cup – beating Borussia Monchengladbach 3-1 in 1977 and it was in Rome again that Liverpool won a most dramatic final in a penalty shoot-out. That was in 1984 and Liverpool's victims that night were... Roma.

That was Roma's first and last appearance in a European club final in a stadium which they share with neighbours Lazio. Or, at least, they shared it until this season. The extent of redevelopment means the Olimpico has been closed since last summer. Roma and Lazio have had to move, temporarily, into the old Flaminio stadium which was the host venue for the Final when Italy staged the 1934 World Cup.



TURIN: Stadio Delle Alpe

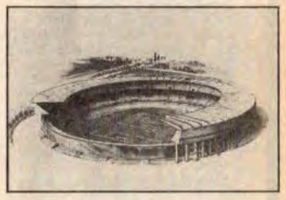
World Cup capacity: 67,411
'Real' capacity: 71,609
TURIN is one of Europe's great footballing cities as the home of Juventus and Torino.

But the old Stadio Comunale, which has seen so much history and so many memorable World Cup, European championship and European and Italian club matches, is now history. Juventus' first leg defeat of Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup Final was their last game there.

A new stadium has been built at the cost of huge expense and no little political wrangling. FIFA and Italian organisation officials warned at one stage that Turin could be dropped from the World Cup if the new stadium did not get beyond the drawing board.

The new ground will have a 67,411 capacity, 3,500 fewer than the old stadium.

Turin first played host to international football in 1912, when Italy lost 4-3 to France. Since then it has staged a wealth of top matches, including two ties in the 1934 World Cup finals. Turin was also the venue for three matches in the 1980 European finals – including the infamous Belgium v England tie which had to be interrupted when tear gas used to seperate fighting fans blew down onto the pitch.



VERONA: Marcantonop Bentegodi

World Cup capacity: 43,700
VERONA is one of the few Italian stadia enclosed within an urban site. Despite that, however, not too much work has been necessary. The Bentegodi was built only in 1963. Now that has proved a remarkably sensible investment in the future by the local authority since Verona's football club had been in the first division only once – and then for only one season – up until then.

The year the Bentegodi was opened Verona were seventh in the second division. But five years later they earned promotion and have spent almost all the last 22 seasons in the top flight.

On its inauguration the stadium had a 40,000 limit. This means it is one of the few stadia which will, as a result of the World Cup development, have increased capacity.

After the finals the city of Verona will own a stadium with a near-44,000 capacity thanks to a £10million programme which has seen the enlargement of the Nord Curve and a horseshoe-shaped roof put in place. Verona's 262,000 population had to wait until April 1984 for international football to arrive with a 1-1 draw between Italy and Czechoslovakia.

ITALIA'90

WORLD SOCCER, JUNE 1990

Top French referee Michel Vautrot takes a hard line with Spain's Antonio Maceda.

36 of the best

REFEREES' LIST FOR ITALIA '90

Mandi J ABDUL RAHMAN. Bahrain. Aged 45. Clerk. World Cup finals newcomer.

Jamal AL SHARIF. Syria. Aged 35. Commercial clerk. Refereed two matches in Mexico in 1986.

Luigi AGNOLIN. Italy. Aged 47. Professor of physical education. Refereed three matches in Mexico in 1986 and would be one of the favourites for the Final this time were his own national team not among the title contenders.

Juan Daniel CARDELLINO. Uruguay. Aged 48. Salesman. Refereed two matches in Spain in 1982. Current top referee in South America.

Edgardo CODESAL MENDEZ. Mexico. Aged 39. Doctor. World Cup finals newcomer.

George COURTNEY. England. Aged 49. School headmaster. Refereed two matches in Mexico in 1986.

Jean-Fidele DIRAMBA. Gabon. Aged 38. Electronics engineer. World Cup finals newcomer.

Erik FREDRIKSSON. Sweden. Aged 47. Auditing manager. Refereed three matches in Spain in 1982 and in Mexico in 1986. Refereed the Opening Match in Mexico between Italy and Bulgaria.

Mohamed HANSAL. Algeria. Aged 42. Project manager. World Cup finals newcomer.

Elias JACOME GUERRERO. Ecuador. Aged 44. Engineer. World Cup finals newcomer.

Naji JOUINI. Tunisia. Aged 40. Businessman. World Cup finals newcomer.

Siefried KIRSCHEN. East Germany. Aged 46. Teacher. Refereed two matches in Mexico in 1986.

Helmut KOHL. Austria. Aged 47. Clerk. World Cup finals newcomer.

Tullio LANESE. Italy. Aged 43. Insurance clerk. World Cup finals newcomer.

Michal LISTKIEWICZ. Poland. Aged 37. Journalist. World Cup finals newcomer.

Richard LORENC. Australia. Aged 42. Manager. World Cup finals newcomer.

Juan Carlos LOUSTAU. Argentina. Aged 42. Manager. World Cup finals newcomer.

Carlos MACIEL. Paraguay. Aged 43. World Cup finals newcomer.

Vincent MAURO. United States. Aged 45. Engineer. World Cup finals newcomer.

Peter MIKKELSEN. Denmark. Aged 30. Teacher. World Cup finals newcomer and the youngest referee ever selected for matches in the finals.

Armando PEREZ HOYOS. Colombia. Aged 38. World Cup finals newcomer.

Zoran PETROVIC. Yugoslavia. Aged 38. Engineer. Refereed two matches in Mexico in 1986. Petrovic was one of the referees singled out at the spring 'teach-in' as being short on fitness.

Joel QUINIOU. France. Aged 39. Civil servant. Refereed only one match in Mexico in 1986 – earning almost instant fame by sending off Uruguay's Batista within two minutes of the start of their match against Scotland.

Jose Roberto Ramiz WRIGHT. Brazil. Aged 45. Teacher. World Cup finals newcomer but for years one of the best in Brazil.

Kurt ROETHLISBERGER. Switzerland. Aged 39. Teacher. World Cup finals newcomer.

Aron SCHMIDHUBER. West Germany. Aged 43. Consultant. World Cup finals newcomer.

Hernan M SILVA ARCE. Chile. Aged 41. Engineer. Refereed one match in Mexico in 1986.

Carlos SILVA VALENTE. Portugal. Aged 43. Clerk. Refereed one match in Mexico in 1986.

George B SMITH. Scotland. Aged 46. Engineer. World Cup finals newcomer – and another official warned that he risked problems over fitness.

Alan SNODDY. Northern Ireland. Aged 35. Bank official. Refereed one match in Mexico in 1986.

Emilio SORIANO ALADREN. Spain. Aged 44. Sales director. World Cup finals newcomer.

Alexei SPIRIN. Soviet Union. Aged 38. Teacher. World Cup finals newcomer.

Shizuo TAKADA. Japan. Aged 42. Refereed one match in Mexico in 1986.

Benny ULLOA MORERA. Costa Rica. Aged 39. Industrialist. Refereed one match in Mexico in 1986.

Marcel VAN LANGENHOVE. Belgium. Aged 46. Tradesman. World Cup finals newcomer.

Michel VAUTROT. France. Aged 44. Trainee supervisor. Refereed two matches in Mexico in 1986. Current Referee of the Year and among the favourites to referee the World Cup Final.

Linesmen:
Pietro D'Elia, Rosario Lo Bello, Carlo Longhi, Pierluigi Magni and **Pierluigi Pairetto** (all Italy).

FIFA TELL REFEREES

BY STAN LOVER

GET TOUGH OR ELSE!

England's George Courtney, recognised as one of the best ref's in the world.

FOLLOW your instructions or be sacked. That is a blunt summary of FIFA's policy for the panel of 36 selected officials charged with controlling the 52 matches of the World Cup finals.

Severe, but necessary in the light of the alarming dip in standards of match control from the high levels of Mexico '70 and Germany '74 to an unacceptable low in Spain '82. Events there produced criticisms and suggestions which led to an improvement in Mexico '86 but not enough to encourage complacency.

In 1988 FIFA adopted a more efficient system for compiling its list of international referees. Until then each of FIFA's 160 national association members had been entitled to name a maximum of seven referees who were capable, in theory, of refereeing the World Cup Final.

FIFA had to accept these officials on face value although there were obvious differences of standards and potential between continents and individual nations. For example England, with 25,000 registered referees, was represented by seven officials, only one more than little Iceland with fewer than 500 referees.

Survival

To reach international status English referees must survive a highly structured progression of match experience starting on the parks at schools level, going through youth, junior and senior amateur levels, on to semi-pro and then achieving the elite Football League list of 100 referees. One has to be in the top echelon of this list to be considered sufficiently qualified for international recommendation by the Football Association.

To illustrate the chasm between soccer levels, in England and Iceland, I recall a conversation with an Icelandic referee delegated to referee Arsenal v Ajax in an important European Cup match. He was delighted to be appointed but was realistic enough to acknowledge that he was not ready to control such an encounter when his experience had been limited to refereeing an average of 14 senior amateur level matches per season.

To redress such anomalies FIFA now call for a maximum of ten recommendations from each member association but have taken over the responsibility of deciding which names to accept.

The benefits from this policy switch will take some years to appear. The aim is to achieve a corps of highly efficient officials and keep them up to scratch with educational programmes and close scrutiny.

Indeed, it is a step towards the professional refereeing development which FIFA officials hinted at earlier this year.

FIFA can no longer live with the risk that the massive effort required to stage a World Cup, presenting a soccer spectacle watched by millions, may be ruined by a handful of officials who do not apply clear instructions to manage the play in a correct manner. Hence, the hard line.

The time is not yet ripe for FIFA to impose its authority to select a panel of the best referees in the world which could include as many as six or seven from one country being utilised in the middle and not as linesmen.

But the 1990 panel moves towards this objective and can be considered a compromise between the FIFA ideal and the wishes of confederations to be represented. Of the 36 referees, 19 are Europeans; seven from South America; three each from Africa, Asia and Concacaf and one from Oceania.

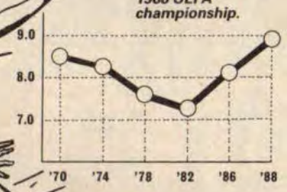
Nine of the Europeans have previous World Cup finals experience. Six of the rest were in Mexico or Spain, leaving 21 newcomers to this stage. Peter Mikkelsen, 30, from Denmark, is said to be the youngest ever to be selected.

One absentee is the excellent Colombian referee, Jesus Diaz Palacio. He would almost certainly have been included but for his decision to quit the game after the murder of his colleague, Alvaro Ortego Nadero, following a Colombian League match at which they had officiated last November.

Another departure from standard procedure concerns the pre-tournament conference. Usually this takes place just before the opening match and lasts three or four days.

Example of the type of tackle from behind which is banned.

Trend of referees marks at World Cup Tournaments and 1988 UEFA championship.



(Illustration from "Soccer LAWS ILLUSTRATED" by Stan Lover).

The programme is designed to cover last-minute instructions, discuss interpretations of the laws, conduct medical and physical tests plus organised training sessions.

For practical purposes the timing is too late to change attitudes and expect new interpretations to be implemented. It is also too late to improve the physical condition of officials whose test results fall below the fairly easy minimum. A few officials have, in past tournament, caused embarrassment and disruption by arriving without serious preparation.

Preparation of the 1990 panel thus took the form of a special seminar in March, in Tirrenia. There will be a final get-together before the first match.

FIFA have spelled out what is required of the finalist teams and referees in a memorandum. These are the key points:

Serious and Violent Foul Play: Referees will be instructed to dismiss any player who commits a deliberate foul, such as a trip from behind or a rugby type tackle on an opponent, intended to prevent a goal from being scored. Such fouls, sometimes called 'professional fouls', must be stamped out of the game.

Belatedly, it has been understood that today's 'pro' foul is imitated in tomorrow's schools match because it is considered as part of the game. As a consequence much skilful play is destroyed degrading soccer as a sport.

Hatchet job

FIFA have taken up the challenge to eliminate the 'pro' foul and look to courageous referees to do a hachet job on the hachet men.

Defensive Wall Supervision: A permanent headache. FIFA will be insisting, again, that free-kicks are not delayed, that opponents must be the correct distance from the ball, that yellow cards must be produced early in matches to set the right discipline.

The Tackle from Behind: This tackle has annihilated so much skill and even driven gifted players out of the game. It arrived in the 1960s as a form of intimidation by defenders to prevent an opponent from controlling the ball and turning.

A severe clamp-down, ordered in British soccer in the early 1970s, improved the situation but there are signs that referees are becoming too lenient. FIFA will instruct the World Cup officials to act swiftly and harshly with offenders.

Refreshment: No drinks on the field. Players who need refreshment must go to the touch-line.

Protection: Players must wear socks up and should have shin-guards to protect themselves from injury and possible infection from AIDS. It is incredible that some stars still prefer to play with legs bare, ignoring commonsense advice to guard against injuries which could put their career, and even life, in jeopardy.

Linesmen: A recurring criticism of officiating at the finals has been the low standard of linesmen. The problem is that top class referees may not have run the line for years. It is a specialists' job demanding 100 per cent concentration and exact positioning.

Although FIFA insist that the referees run at least five lines before the World Cup there will be a few who may not be of the required high standard.

George Smith, Scotland's representative.

The point of including the result of the marks for the 1988 European Championship, in the diagram alongside, is that the officials were chosen as teams of three from the same country. Co-operation and understanding were clearly excellent and produced the desired result.

FIFA have been urged to appoint three-man teams for the finals as indeed is the case for the qualifying tournament.

So...who will monitor and judge the referees?

Members of the Referees' Committee will, as is usual, submit reports on the performances of the referee and linesmen at each game probably with a more critical eye than before.

An additional burden for the officials will be a more sophisticated media coverage of play with the aid of 16 cameras covering the action from all angles. They will extract the maximum controversy from the least apparent error!

Who will referee the World Cup Final in Rome on July 8. I don't know but some of the factors which will narrow down the ultimate choice will be; which teams reach the final the referee must be from a neutral country experience of World Cup tournaments performances in first and second round matches.

Who are the favourites?

I think a European will be chosen from the nine with previous finals experience. Four of these – Vautrot and Quiniou (France), Kirschen (East Germany) and Snoddy (N. Ireland) qualify immediately because their countries are not participating. The other five must wait for the finalist teams to be known. Frederiksson (Sweden) has the most experience ahead of Petrovic (Yugoslavia), Agnolin (Italy), Aladren (Spain) and Courtney (England).

If I were a betting man I would be tempted to back Vautrot for a win and Frederiksson for a win or place!

Keir Radnedge on the fascinating history of the World Cup

SOCCER'S SOUTH AMERICAN DREAM

ITALY might have staged the very first World Cup rather than Uruguay. They were among the initial contenders for the honour when, in 1924, FIFA first formally discussed the idea of a world championship.

Those discussions took place during the 1924 Paris Olympics. Leading soccer officials such as Frenchman Jules Rimet could see then and there that the advent of professionalism would soon invalidate the credibility of Olympic football.

Four years later, at a congress in Amsterdam, FIFA set the wheels in motion. At the Barcelona congress in 1929 there were no fewer than six would-be inaugural hosts: Italy, Spain, Holland, Hungary, Sweden and Uruguay.

Before the debate began Holland and Sweden withdrew and offered their votes to Italy. But Italy then withdrew themselves, quickly followed by Hungary and Spain, when the terms of the Uruguayan bid were announced.

Not only were the Uruguayans to build a major new stadium, they would also pay all the finalists' travel and ancillary expenses. No-one else had been prepared to present such financial guarantees and Uruguay's selection went through unopposed.

European nations who had thrilled at the prospect of a World Cup suddenly got cold feet at the thought of sending players and officials away for up to three months because of the long Atlantic sea crossing. Thus only four European nations attended the finals, and only 13 nations in all instead of the expected 16.

With hindsight this probably did not affect the outcome. Uruguay, reigning Olympic champions, were considered worthy winners of the first World Cup. In the Final they beat neighbours Argentina in a repeat of the 1928 Olympic final.

Argentina 'keeper Botasso fails to stop Stabile scoring for Uruguay in the 1930 Final in Montevideo.

Dispute

The home countries were absent, having quit FIFA two years earlier in a dispute over broken-time payments for amateurs. They would not rejoin FIFA and enter the World Cup until after the second world war – when the World Cup itself was renamed the Jules Rimet Trophy in honour of the event's guiding light.

England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland thus missed the opportunity to challenge in 1934 and 1938. Italy won on both occasions, leaning heavily on foreign imports. But then, as manager Vittorio Pozzo said: "If they are eligible to die for Italy, then they are also eligible to play football for Italy."

The next World Cup should have been staged in 1942. But FIFA's 1938 congress, meeting in Paris and fearing for international stability, postponed a decision. Germany and Brazil were the two prime candidates. FIFA decided to take a decision at their 1940 Congress in Luxembourg.

The next congress did, indeed, take place in Luxembourg. But in 1946.

Organising a World Cup was an important task as soccer sought to play its part in building the post-war peace. Germany was discounted as a candidate. That left Brazil, who were awarded the finals for 1949. Switzerland were awarded 1953, to Sweden went 1957. A year later it was clear that time was running short. Brazil proposed a one-year delay in 'their' World Cup. This was accepted – and thus was founded the four-year sequence which alternates so conveniently with the Olympic Games.

Brazil were joint favourites to win in their own back yard in 1950. The other joint favourites were England, competing for the first time.

But England went home after first-round defeats by the United States and Spain. Brazil should have walked it. Zizinho, Ademir and Jair were the world's outstanding inside-forwards.

Morlock (white shirt) scores West Germany's first goal against Hungary in the 1954 World Cup Final.

HONOURS LIST

1930 Final: Uruguay 4, Argentina 2 (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Top scorer: Stabile (Arg) 8 goals

1934 Final: Italy 2, Czechoslovakia 1, aet (Rome, Italy)
Top scorer: Schiavio (It), Nejedly (Cz), Conen (Ger) 4 goals

1938 Final: Italy 4, Hungary 2 (Paris, France)
Top scorer: Leonidas (Brazil) 8 goals

1950 Final: Uruguay 2, Brazil 1 (Rio, Brazil)
Top scorer: Ademir (Brz) 9 goals

1954 Final: West Germany 3, Hungary 2 (in Bern, Switzerland)
Top scorer: Kocsis (Hun) 11 goals

1958 Final: Brazil 5, Sweden 2 (Stockholm, Sweden)
Top scorer: Fontaine (France) 13

1962 Final: Brazil 3, Czechoslovakia 1 (Santiago, Chile)
Top scorers: Albert (Hun) 4 goals (in three games)

1966 Final: England 4, West Germany 2 aet (Wembley, England)
Top scorer: Eusebio (Port) 9 goals

1970 Final: Brazil 4, Italy 1 (in Mexico City, Mexico)
Top scorer: Muller (WG) 10 goals

1974 Final: West Germany 2, Holland 1 (in Munich, West Germany)
Top scorer: Lato (Pol) 7 goals

1978 Final: Argentina 3, Holland 1 aet (in Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Top scorer: Kempes (Arg) 6 goals

1982 Final: Italy 3, West Germany 1 (in Madrid, Spain)
Top scorer: Paolo Rossi (Italy) 6 goals

1986 Final: Argentina 3, West Germany 2
Top scorer: Lineker (Eng) 6 goals.

Instead they were upset, right at the very end, by Uruguay who won 2-1 – when Brazil had needed only a draw under the mini-league system then in operation – to carry off their first World Cup.

Uruguay owed their victory to a great inside forward in Juan Schiaffino and a great attacking centre-half in Obdulio Varela. But the attacking centre-half would soon become an anachronism. When West Germany won the 1954 World Cup – beating Hungary in the Final in another enormous upset – they relied on the pragmatic, more defensive WM system with a stopper centre-half. The Germans had great player in inside left and skipper Fritz Walter and free-scoring outside right Helmut Rahn. But they had none of the entertaining sparkle of those Brazilians who would win three of the next four World Cups.

In 1958, in 1962 and in 1970, Brazil strode the world game. Players such as Pele, Garrincha, Zagalo, Vava and later Jairzinho, Tostao and Gerson lifted soccer to new planes of artistic excitement. European realism was very much second best – Sweden crashing in the 1958 Final, Czechoslovakia being well beaten in 1962 and Italy's infamous catenaccio defence being shredded in 1970.

In between all that England provided a brief European interlude on home soil in 1966 when Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton became international superstars. Still today, these are men whose names and fame means more than those of most of England's present-day heroes.

Dominate

In the 1966 Final England beat a West German team which would ultimately dominate the European World Cup challenge. Apart from finishing runners-up in 1966, they were third in 1970, winners in 1974 – led by Franz Beckenbauer – and runners-up again in both 1982 and 1986.

Only Italy's record can compare. The Italians won the World Cup for a third time in 1982 and were fourth in 1978. In 1978 they lost to Brazil in the third-place match but seized spectacular revenge in 1982. Italy beat Brazil 3-2 in a second round tie which saw Paolo Rossi score a hat-trick.

The chaos in Brazilian football was seen off the pitch as well as on it. They had taken permanent possession of the Rimet trophy in 1970. But, if you visit the CBF offices today, you will see only a replica. The original was stolen, there in Rio, and melted down – a sad fate for the prize which has meant so much to so many over long.

Format

The changing face of the World Cup, however, has meant other developments. From 1930 until 1978 the number of finalists remained fixed at 16, although the competitive format of the event varied from one tournament to another.

Current FIFA president Joao Havelange came to power in 1974, however, on the strength of a promise to expand the finals – a popular move in the game's third world. Spain, in 1982, thus became the first host nation to welcome 23 visiting teams. It was this expansion which led directly to Mexico staging the finals for a second time in 1986. Colombia had originally been awarded the right, when the World Cup was still a 16-nation showdown. They decided they could not cope with a 24-team event and pulled out.

The eclipse of Brazil opened up the way for an Argentine revival. The runners-up from that inaugural Final in 1930 achieved ultimate success in 1978 – in front of their own fans – and then last time out, in Mexico in 1986.

In the 1960s Pele was the dominant individual; in the 1970s Beckenbauer; on the 1980s Maradona. And the 1990s?

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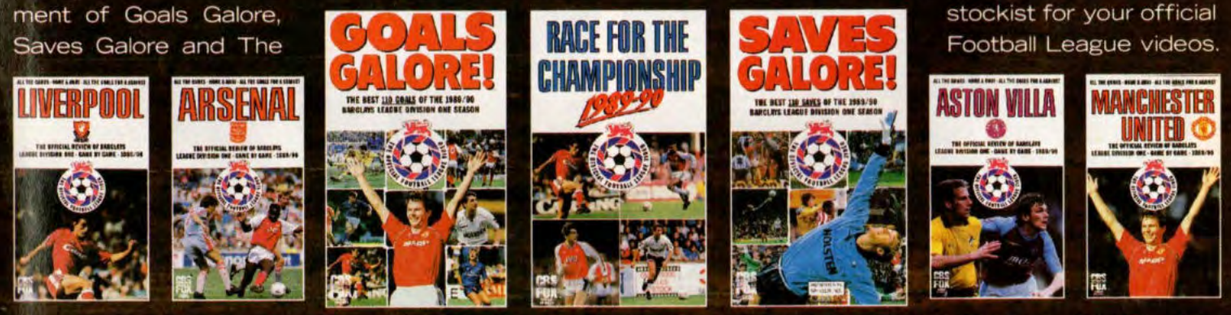

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The Brian Glanville COLUMN

BACK ON THE R

IT was in 1955 that I ended my three years of living in Italy, though I have been back on almost infinite occasions. My last spell as a resident was in Rome.

Luck, my luck, decided that this should be the only season in the whole history of Italian pro football that there were two English managers in Rome: George Raynor of Yorkshire at Lazio, Jesse Carver the Liverpudlian at Roma.

What a winter it was! I was 23, and writing as indeed I do now for the Roman daily, the Corriere Delio Sport. I was the only journalist whom the two managers would speak to, though Carver encouraged the belief that he was forbidden to give interviews. The two men were almost as great a contrast as their teams.

Both had also previously managed Juventus, though their experience was very different. Carver, closed and compact, a sturdy, pink cheeked man who kept the world at a distance, had won the championship with Juve in his first season, four years earlier, in 1951.

Then he had criticised the directors, by no means without reason, in an interview with a journalist who betrayed him. The remarks were meant to be off the record. The reporter published them. Carver was dismissed.

Sacked with him was Gigi Peronace, who would become so well known in England in later years, where everybody tended to take him at his own, ebullient valuation. A deep Southerner from Calabria, a tiny goalkeeper in his day, who had arranged matches against the invading Allied forces, Gigi had gone North to Turin to take an engineering course at the university, then found himself interpreting for Juve's Scottish manager, Bill Chalmers. In due course, he interpreted for Carver.

Carver never really mastered Italian, though he understood it perfectly well. He had a series of meaningless phrases, such as "Lui parlare me los stesso," which being interpreted (literally) meaneth: "He speak me the same." But he got across to his players who by and large admired him immensely. Even if big John Hansen of Denmark, who came down to Rome that season to play for Lazio, told me in Florence in 1952 when Juve played there that Carver's training was too hard, that he had grown gaunt.

Raynor had been manager of the Swedish team which won the 1948 Olympic title in London, took third place with a savagely depleted team in the 1950 Brazilian World Cup. He would take a second place in 1958 in Stockholm. Things did not work out in Turin, and before long he was on his way South. You could manage more than one club per season in those happy days.

Tiny, open, friendly yet shrewd, Raynor was enormously hospitable, where Carver's door, by and large, was closed. Roman football hurt him. He had always, he was once heard to say, th gentle will b be no Ray Presi Grey Guait man. Gu was r who s would ment Conti anoth nouve of the Rayn In t he wo

Keeping Europe at bay

PFA chief Gordon Taylor.

HAVE you ever heard of someone, a European MP no less, called Jessica Larive? No, of course not, though Mme Larive, a voluble Dutch peroxide blonde of a certain age, is quite determined that everyone shall hear of her.

Especially anyone who is anyone in European football.

I had the privilege, if that is the word, of hearing Mme Larive in full, formidable cry at a conference on football in Florence, recently. It had seemed, in prospect and to some extent in practice, a kind of outdoor relief for obscure British academics from provincial universities, mumbling their arcane papers to a polyglot and pampered audience.

It turned, in the event, to something far more significant for European football. UEFA were there in force. There was Scotland's David Will, soon to transfer to FIFA. There was Freddie Rumo, the Swiss who was a candidate of late for the Presidency. There was UEFA's main lawyer. Gordon Taylor, the Secretary of the PFA who so many of us hoped would sweep to power in the League on the "dream ticket" with Bill Fox, was also cogently present.

Into Line

But Mme Larive spoke first; and how she spoke! With what self-love, self-confidence, self-satisfaction! UEFA, she told us, must come into line. There must be total free movement of players within the Community. No Compromise would be accepted. Footballers were no different from plumbers and lawyers. None could constitute a special case. The compromise which UEFA had not long ago put forward in Stockholm, the suggestions that how ever many players a club could sign, only a limited number could play in any given game, was wholly unacceptable. It was not a power struggle; the Community had all the power.

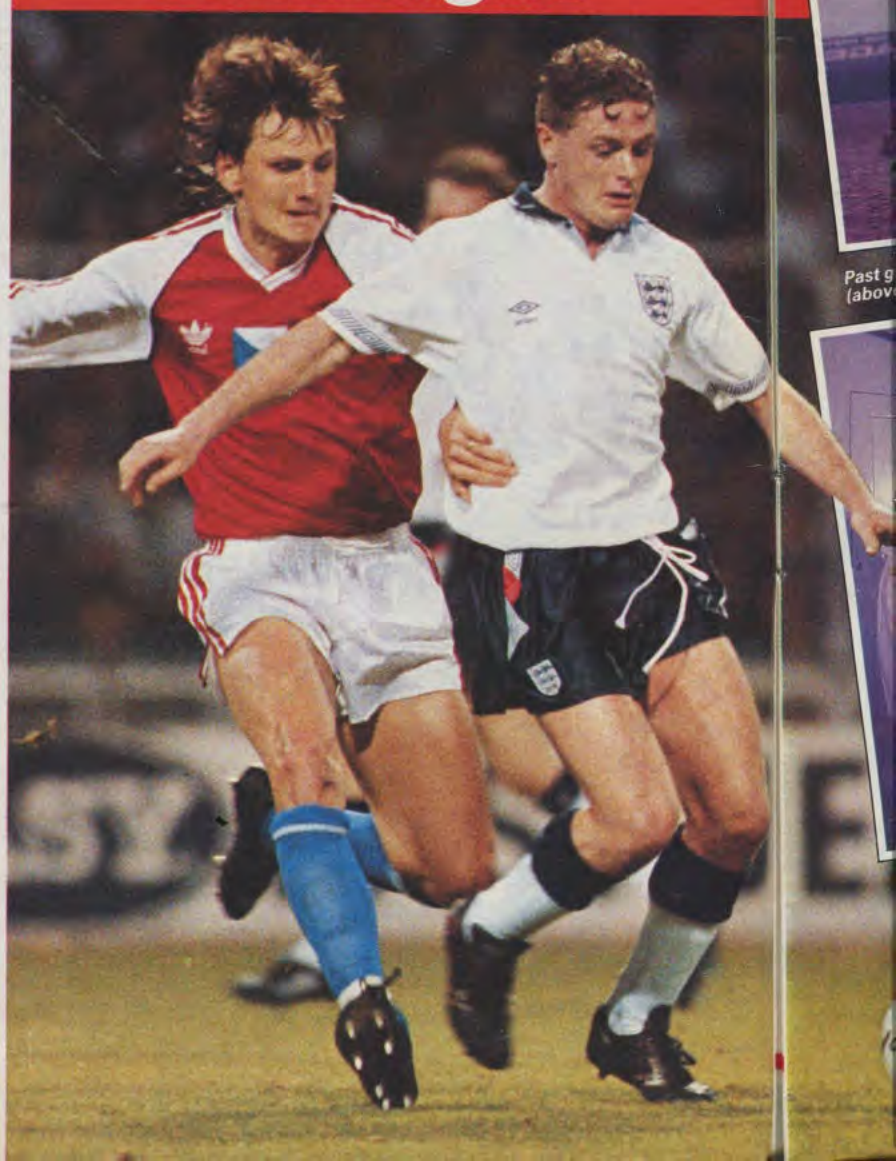
David Will, when he spoke, alluded to the European Parliament's amazing exercise in busy idleness when they insisted that the transfer system be abolished. He pointed out the dangers of full free movement to the development of young local players. Gordon Taylor explained that the pro footballers themselves did not want total freedom of movement.

Then it was my turn. I began by eliciting Peter Ustinov's famous imitation of a German composer, in a satirical TV programme: "Now with the European Community, it does not matter if the Luxemburgers do not want dodecaphonic music. We can IMPOSE it on them!" I quoted Dickens: "If the law says that, then the law is an ass!" And Orwell: "Sport is an unfailing cause of ill will."

Mme Larive seemed to believe that it could cement all Europe; even gave us the dotty prospect of Europe fielding its own team in the Olympics! The cataclysmic things which have been happening in the Soviet Empire, the massive resurgence of nationalism, seemed wholly to have passed her by.

But a member of the European Commission privately told me that he saw the force of UEFA's arguments, that there was still time for talk and for compromise. So Artemio Franchi, who kept the Larives of this world at bay for so many years, did not fight in vain.

The importance of being Gascoigne



Past g (abov

ROAD TO ROME

say, thought of it as a game for gentlemen. But Rome is, was and ever will be Rome; a Byzantine city, if that be not a contradiction in terms.

Raynor was the choice of the Lazio President, Tessaroco, abetted by his Grey Eminence, the air force captain Guaitini, a large, dark haired, intense man.

Guaitini was probity personified. So was my good friend Domenico Biti, who so ably ran Lazio's juniors, and would later run Roma's; not to mention discover and launch Bruno Conti at Lazio. But Count Vaselli was another matter entirely, scion of a nouveau riche family, vice-president of the club, determined to eject Raynor and get his own man in.

In the dressing room after a game, he would rush up, in his inevitable, broad brimmed hat, angrily tap your note pad, and cry, "Have the courtesy not to write! Giovannini played well, and that's enough!" The Raynors called him Count Vaseline.

One notable midweek, Lazio beat mighty Inter in a league game; a blow to Count Vaseline. John Hansen, who had played splendidly, loyally told a radio reporter he was so glad for Raynor. The remark was cut.

When, in the New Year, Lazio met Roma at the Olympic Stadium, fresh from a great success at Bologna, Carver failed to change his breakaway tactics. Lazio won 3-1 in the rain. I wrote that I thought Carver wrong to play his left-half, Giuliano, as a deep right winger, giving Lazio the initiative. I had an angry phone call.

"Ah! But what you don't know is that when Giuliano began his career at Torino juniors, he was a right winger!"

Gradually, Raynor got Lazio out of trouble. He used what he was called a G-Man, a special close marker in defence: a Swede, Sigge Lofgren. Giampiero Boniperti got so frustrated at the Olimpico that he felled Lofgren with an elbow to the stomach. Sassi, a tough left half of stubbled chin, felled Boni with an elbow to the jaw ("Just because he's the captain of Italy!" he said to Biti and me, on the Spanish Steps, next day).

That wasn't all. Antonazzi, the Lazio right back, ran to join the fray, and was himself knocked flat by an elbow from the big Juve centre-half. Rino Ferrario; three years later to figure in the Battle of Belfast. Afterwards, Ferrario, came out of the dressing room and lamented to Raynor: "What a pity, Mister! Ten minutes from the end it had been a quiet game! Quiet!"

Two years later, Peronace and I responded to an appeal by the late Sid Hobbins, then Orient's chief scout, and arranged for Alex Stock, the manager, to take over Roma. To be exact, Hobbins rang me, asked if I could help, and I told Peronace. After infinite to-ing and fro-ing, Stock got the job, but he didn't last long. Tony Busini, a formidable intriguer, was now on Roma's staff.

One Sunday, Stock and his interpreter missed the train to Naples for a match. Busini picked the team for him. A furious Stock refused to sit on the bench, and was sacked.

Past greats: Stanley Matthews (above) and Len Shackleton.

THE apotheosis of Paul Gascoigne, when he bestrode the field, set up three goals, and scored a magnificent fourth against the Czechs, was one more episode on the long, depressing history of England teams and brilliant individuals.

The English love affair with mediocrity, at the expense of the idiosyncratic talent, was pinpointed by the late Arthur Koestler, the celebrated Hungarian writer who spent the later decades of his life here.

For politicians to succeed, he wrote, they have, in each and every country, to pass through a kind of gauze. In England, it is a gauze of mediocrity. Obviously he was thinking of politicians such as Ramsay Macdonald, Baldwin and Chamberlain rather than Churchill and, in later years, Thatcher; hardly mediocre, whatever you may think of her. But the point, or the pinpoint, remains well taken. From Charlie Buchan to Stanley Matthews, Matthews to Shackleton, "Shack" to Hoddle, and now Hoddle to Gascoigne, the English maverick has traditionally had a hard time of it.

My Dublin-born father, an Arsenal fan, used to speak to me wonderingly of Charlie Buchan, an inside-forward so clever, he said, that it was hard for other footballers to play with him. Buchan, virtual inventor of the Third Back Game, when Arsenal introduced it in 1925, a star with Sunderland before the first world war, a powerful figure in Arsenal's then obscure team, when transferred to them on a £100-a-goal basis in 25, won only a handful of caps for England. True, the Great War got in the way, but his career, a long one, spanned it.

Of Matthews, David Miller has written in his recent biography. He was an outside-right of astonishing gifts, renowned and revered throughout the world, his career much longer even than Buchan's. Yet what ups and downs it had!

He was first capped as a 19-year-old in 1934 and, on his second appearance, ran into the chilling Battle of Highbury, in which the Italians were kicking almost everything that moved. Not a day for the young Matthews.

Matthews was not even originally chosen for the English World Cup party in 1950 in Brazil. He was grudgingly added to it at almost the last moment but played only one game, that against Spain in Rio, after England had been utterly humiliated in Belo Horizonte by the USA.

That was the period when the selectors preferred Tom Finney to Matthews so often; even though three years earlier, in Lisbon, they had at last put Matthews on the right. Finney on the left and Portugal were crushed 10-0.

A year later, in Turin, with Matthews and Finney in the same roles, England thrashed Italy 4-0. Finney scored twice, and Matthews tormented the stand in, blond left back, Eliani.

Shackleton was another salient example. When in 1955 he published his amusing and contentious autobiography, Clown Prince of Soccer, ghosted by David Jack, he devoted a chapter to The Average Director's Knowledge of soccer. It consisted of a blank page. He might, from his own point of view, equally well have devoted it to the Average Selector; who was, in any case, invariably a club director.

The other thing I always remember from Shack's book was his anecdote about the bitter day when he was turned down by Arsenal. It was just before the war and he was called into the office of sonorous George Allison, the Arsenal manager, who had been essentially a journalist, never before in charge of a football team. Allison told "this then frail boy," as he would later refer to him, that Arsenal were letting him go.

Fell out

Arsenal lived to regret it; just as they did in the case of Charlie Buchan, whom they'd turned down in pre-Great War days when an amateur with them. They were Woolwich Arsenal then, and they fell out with him over a matter of 11 bob expenses. Shackleton, like Buchan, would become a huge favourite at Sunderland, though first he returned to his native City to play for Bradford Park Avenue, then for Newcastle.

Glenn Hoddle, who alas has had his career blighted this season in Monaco by a severe knee injury and a difficult operation, made a memorable debut at Wembley against Bulgaria, passing and controlling the ball with exquisite skill, finally striking a spectacular right footed goal. His reward for that was to be dropped from the next game with the manager, then Ron Greenwood, announcing: "Disappointment is part of football."

There would be plenty of disappointments in the future, some from Greenwood, some from his successor, Bobby Robson. It took Robson a very long time indeed to come round to Hoddle, and then it was in a thorough grudging and reluctant way: until a burst of bizarre enthusiasm in Colorado Springs.

Robson is another England manager in love with mediocrity; with the David Platts rather than the Paul Gascoignes of this world. In 1985, Hoddle was chosen against Scotland but told, ludicrously, to play on the right wing. When the scene changed to Mexico and a pre-World Cup tournament, a kind of tacit conspiracy by the other England players allowed Hoddle to move inside and exercise his high creative skills. Sourly, after Hoddle had had an excellent game, Robson remarked that this was how he always wanted him to play.

And so to Gascoigne. A maverick indeed. An immensely gifted but eternally boyish, even puerile, figure, given to practical jokes. Such as the moment, in Stockholm, when he accosted an astonished manager of Sweden. Olle Nordin, said how pleased he was to meet him, and shook hands – with an electric buzzer in his hand.

That "Gazza" had practically every quality you could hope for or think of save acceleration was beyond doubt. He had outstanding technique, could beat a man with exquisite arabesques of ball control, had a thunderous right footed shot, deployed with especial success at free kicks, and the ability to make the kind of killer passes one had associated with his predecessor, in the Tottenham team, Glenn Hoddle.

Equally beyond doubt was his tendency to retaliate when fouled and get himself in trouble, to show off, to make the occasional silly mistake, But since there wasn't a single other midfield player, read inside forward, in the country capable of making the unexpected pass, the case for him as an England World Cup choice seemed unanswerable; expect to Bobby Robson.

Robson was at his Colorado Springs games again before the Czechoslovak match, saying that Gascoigne had played well at Millwall earlier in the season, against Yugoslavia B, but this was how he must play again. Gascoigne had indeed played well that night – I was there – superbly setting up a goal, but my memory, alas for Robson, is long enough to remember that he damned Gascoigne with faint praise, concentrating on a couple of mistakes he had made.

Then came that dazzling exhibition against the Czechs. An inspired through pass gave Steve Bull the equaliser. A brilliant passage on the right allowed Bull to head another.

A wickedly swerving inswinger of a corner helped Pearce to the second English goal. The coruscating, last-minute goal set the seal on his performance.

Robson had before the game, implied that for Gascoigne, it was going to be now or never. It became, triumphantly, now.

England have thus been given a formidable new weapon. I cannot see them winning the World Cup, but I can see them giving everyone a good run for their money.

Franz Beckenbauer.

The men who pull the strings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

CARLOS ALBERTO Parreira. Aged 47. Brazilian, but no relation to the Carlos Alberto who captained the 1970 World Cup winners. Parreira coached junior clubs in Rio before being seconded to help the Ghana federation in Africa. He returned to top jobs in Brazil with Vasco da Gama and Fluminense and then steered oil-rich Kuwait to the 1982 World Cup finals. Managed Brazil briefly before returning to the Middle East. He is the UAE's third manager in six months.

UNITED STATES

Robert 'Bob' GANSLER. Aged 48. Born in Hungary, emigrating with his family to the United States in 1952. Gansler played centre-back for 14 seasons with the Milwaukee Bavarians and one season in the NASL with Chicago. He captained the US Olympic team in 1964 and 1968. After graduating from Marquette University and gaining a coaching licence, he joined the USSF in 1975. Took over the national team last year after guiding the US to fourth place in the World Youth Cup.

URUGUAY

Oscar Washington TABAREZ. Aged 43. Played for four of the Montevideo first division clubs – Sudamerica, Sportivo Italiano, Wanderers and Fenix before trying his luck in Mexio with Puebla. Retired in 1978 and returned to senior soccer as a coach in 1980 with Bella Vista. Extended his reputation with Danubio, Wanderers, Penarol and Colombia's Deportivo Cali before being appointed Uruguay boss in the summer of 1988.

WEST GERMANY

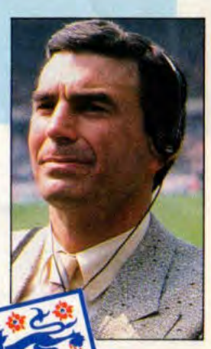
Franz BECKENBAUER. Aged 44. Played a record 103 times for West Germany and counts as one of the greatest footballers of all time. Won everything there is in the game (except the UEFA Cup!) as a player before retiring in 1982. In 1984 he was appointed West German team chief and achieved notable success in steering an uninspired team to the Final of the last World Cup. Beckenbauer will step down after Italia '90, probably to take up a promotional role with the DFB.

YUGOSLAVIA

Ivica OSIM. Aged 49. As a player Osim was an outstanding midfield general who scored eight times in 16 appearances for his country, including the 1968 European Nations' Cup when Yugoslavia were runners-up. Osim spent his club career in Yugoslavia (with Zeljeznicar) and in France (with Strasbourg and Sedan). He later became general manager then coach back with Zeljeznicar and was appointed national manager four years ago.

Trevor Brooking reveals the nations he expects to make the final stages...and beyond.

England on target for the Semis



ONCE the opening game between Argentina and Cameroon gets underway on June 8th all the hopes and expectations of the 24 competing countries will start to unfold.

For eight of them it will end with the disappointment of returning home within two weeks, but England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland are determined to make sure they are in that final 16, ready for the "sudden death."

To be guaranteed qualification the initial target is three points, which should be good enough for any of the third placed sides to get through, but two points will mean relying on goal difference.

Any side gaining a win in their opening fixture immediately takes the pressure off themselves and so the England versus Republic of Ireland game will be crucial for the victor.

Previous matches between the countries have not produced many goals and as I don't expect any difference this time round, it could well be a draw.

When qualifying, their defences were very sound. This should ensure both teams join Holland as the three countries to come through from Group F.

After that it will depend on their ability to create and score goals during the knockout rounds and it is here England appear to have the edge in flair.

Apart from Gary Lineker, John Barnes, Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne are all potential matchwinners, but their inconsistency will trouble the nagging doubters.

For the Republic John Aldridge and Tony Cascarino will probably provide the cutting edge and with the team's height should be very dangerous from set pieces.

Both could make the last eight, but realisically only England can hope to go beyond that.

Interest will also centre around Scotland in Group C and I must say the strength of their squad does give me some concern.

They lack real quality in the vital midfield area and must rely heavily on good teamwork rather than individual brilliance. Brazil and Sweden would be the two favourites to lead this group and so I hope Scotland can achieve a convincing win over Costa Rica in their opening match.

Elsewhere Italy and Austria look strongest in Group A, Russia and Argentina in Group B, West Germany and Yugoslavia in Group D, and possibly Spain and Uruguay in the evenly matched Group E.

Hiccups

The three most fancied countries are Italy, Holland and Brazil, but they have all experienced hiccups. As hosts Italy's side will be under immense pressure to succeed, but I hope they do not resort back to the negative defensive tactics we have seen in their play in recent months.

Holland have injury worries about key men Gullit and Koeman, and their new manager Leo Beenhakker must quickly establish control and authority over his talented squad.

Brazil must overcome the suggested disadvantage of the tournament being Europe, but as so many of their players play club football there anyway it should not matter, and so they are my own personal selection.

For a good outsider I plump for Yugoslavia who have some great talent, none more so than midfield artist Dragan Stojkovic.

MY ITALIA DIARY

I SHALL be over in Italy myself helping BBC television with their extensive coverage of the tournament. I fly out with the England squad at the end of May and will be based with them in Sardinia for their phase matches.

As usual, my involvement will be mainly summarising matches and then probably some news pieces from the England camp.

I am also scheduled to stay with England when they leave Sardinia for the next stage and keep with them from then on. Rome stages the Final on Sunday 8th July and nothing would delight me more than if there was still some home interest in that closing spectacle.

Whatever the outcome my main hope is for a competition free of trouble, and one remembered for flair and skill, which will act as a catalyst for the millions of youngsters watching throughout the world.

* Trevor Brooking writes a regular weekly column for The Sunday Express.

England's John Barnes takes on the Republic defence.

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WORLD SOCCER, JUNE 1990

HOW & WHY

The supporters' guide to style

WHAT'S in fashion? What's in style? KEIR RADNEDGE explains what to watch for in the World Cup's tactical battle

THE technical style of a nation's football is influential in shaping its tactical approach. This is never better seen that at the World Cup finals, which bring such a variety of styles and approaches into confrontation.

To generalise, most of the soccer world is split between two schools – the Latin, and the Northern European.

The Latin school of technique is much more skilful and aesthetically pleasing to watch. The danger is that when technical ability becomes more important than other attributes – then the team looks pretty but is ineffective.

The Northern European school puts more emphasis on strength and stamina and physical effort – which can look clumsy. The differences stem basically from obvious factors such as climate and conditions.

Obviously a more relaxed and technical game is necessary in hot climates with bone-hard pitches. In cooler climates, with softer and heavier grounds, physical strength is a key factor.

As for tactics, the prevalent foundation is 4-4-2. This means four defenders at the back, four men draped across midfield and two attackers. It was the shape created by Alf Ramsey for England's World Cup winners of 1966 and it is still a role model.

On such foundations, however, are found a myriad of variations. Some countries use a sweeper i.e. a central defender who stands a little behind the other defenders, who marks no-one in particular but gives extra cover to all the other defenders.

Some teams use the back four in a line so they can push forward towards halfway and trap the opposition offside. Some teams use a five-man midfield with one attacker because they feel they can better support the attack in this way while simultaneously maintaining control through numbers in midfield.

Some use the "pressing" tactic which means pushing forward, not so much with the idea of playing offside but with dominating the ball and defending as far from their own goal as possible.

Finally, the most sophisticated tactic is 3-5-2. This is based on the premise that since no team uses more than two full-time attackers, only two full-time, man-for-man marking defenders are needed, plus a sweeper to cover the gaps. This releases an extra man to push forward – thus creating a five-man midfield.

But, when you have a five-man midfield, you need highly-intelligent players to interpret the formula with success. Many a league team has tried to copy and looked woefully inadequate because their players lacked the intelligence available at the very highest level. For an outstanding example of the way 3-5-2 can be made to work consider Argentina in the last World Cup. The tactical way they played is the tactical way everybody would like to play – if they had the players, and if they had the nerve!

Ancelotti, Italy's anchor man, gets the better of Spain dangerman Butragueno.

Group A:

ITALY: Play a technical style but do not shun the use of force where necessary. That is the inevitable product of their highly-professional league system.

The Italians used to use a defensive system called catenaccio (literally The Bolt) with one full-time sweeper who stood permanently up to 12 or 15 yards behind the rest of his defence. Baresi still occupies this role but interprets it in the modern way – using the absence of a marker on him to bring the ball through and start attacks, creating himself an extra man in midfield.

Maldini pushes up from nominal leftback to strengthen midfield on the one side while De Napoli falls back out of midfield to cover the "rightback" hole on the other flank. Giannini is the central schemer with Ancelotti the anchor man and Donadoni moving very wide to find space on the wings.

AUSTRIA: Josef Hickersberger's men will use a fairly basic 4-4-2 or even 4-5-1. Austria are another technically competent nation. But because they lack confidence and possess only one top-class striker (Polster) they will start by pulling everyone else back. Austria's variation is that they have a couple of players, such as Keglevits, who are very quick at running the ball through from defence.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Another technically competent nation who will mass their forces in defence and midfield. Coach Venglos is an imaginative tactician so the Czechs may well vary their tactical scheme according to the opposition.

The Czechs often step up their stifling control in midfield by pulling one of their two strikers back to help out in midfield. But they are blessed with an abundance of midfield talent (Kubik, Hasek, Chovanec, etc) and it would be a shame if that were not to be reflected in goals or results.

UNITED STATES: Considered northern European in style, with more strength than skill. That is development of the German influence in American soccer, also the sport's middle-class position. It has yet to successfully embrace the blacks and the Latin Americans. When they are on board the American style of soccer could be an exciting one indeed. But that day is a very, very long way off. In the meantime coach Bob Gansler must struggle on with his keen, determined squad and hope that simple tactics suffice.

GROUP B

ARGENTINA: For years Argentina were among the most tactical-backward of nations. Their players' technique is masterful, second only to Brazil. But throughout the 1950s and early 1960s they fooled themselves into believing that technique was all that mattered.

Not only that, but the Argentines maintained the old attacking centre-half longer than most other nations – which is why now, in Argentine league games, the No 5 is still the pivot in midfield. A player such as Batista is merely the latest in a long tradition of old-fashioned attacking centre-halves as exemplified in the 1930s by Luisito Monti, in the 1940s by Nestor Rossi, in the 1950s by Federico Sacchi and in the 1960s by the infamous Antonio Rattin.

Argentina first began to change in the mid-1960s and the process was painful. Juan Carlos Lorenzo, manager for the 1966 World Cup in England, created a safety-first tactic which was effective but for which his players proved temperamentally unsuited.

Then fellow coach Osvaldo Zubeldia produced a club team in Estudiantes de La Plata, who ruled South America for three years in the late 1960s with a viciously cynical exploitation of gamesmanship.

After the World Cup failures of 1970 (when Argentina failed to qualify) and 1974 (when they were outclassed in the second round in West Germany) the AFA looked to provide their game with a positive new direction. They struck gold with the appointment as national manager of Cesar Luis Menotti.

He was well-versed in the modern game and understood how best to incorporate Argentine technical brilliance within a modern, disciplined tactical framework. That led directly to the World Cup triumph of 1978 and established the foundations on which successor Carlos Bilardo built a winning team in Mexico.

In Mexico, Argentina began with 4-4-2 and switched to 3-5-2 as the tournament, and their confidence, developed. Bilardo probably plans the same progression this time – playing cautiously in the first round and then varying his tactics to take advantage of opposition weaknesses after that.

CAMEROON: The popular myth is that African footballers are technically outstanding but tactically wayward – that they are undisciplined and gain their greatest pleasure from entertaining the crowds.

Forget it. Cameroon (and Egypt) have reached the World Cup finals by playing modern football – massing tighly in defence when necessary, stifling the opposition in midfield, then hitting them on the break.

Cameroon play 4-4-2 or even 4-5-1 and virtually all their key men have long since held first-team places in professional western Europe and know all about modern tactics and disciplines.

Remember that their primary aim is to make sure African football is not disgraced at the World Cup so they will play tight and hard. If their technical abilities and attacking pace can then bring goals so much the better – but that is not the priority.

SOVIET UNION: When it comes to match tactics, the Soviets are the undoubted chess masters. Manager Valeri Lobanovsky plots every move of every game and adjusts his team and tactical selections accordingly. Whether the Soviets play 4-4-2 or 3-5-1 or 4-5-1 it will always be for a specific purpose. To that end, Lobanovsky is fortunate in having a group of players of high skill and football-intelligence levels. In the 1950s and 1960s, when Soviet soccer was dominated by Moscow politicians and Moscow clubs, it reflected Russian style: with fitness and teamwork the keynotes to the exclusion of individual creativity. Indeed, individual personalities such as Valeri Voronin were sooner or later banished from the game.

But in the mid-1970s it became clear that the southern republics of the Ukraine and Georgia produced footballers with outstanding technical gifts. It took almost a decade of experimentation before the two 'schools' (north and south) could be successfully merged within the national team.

The result was an unlucky second-round elimination at the last World Cup then runners-up spot at the 1988 European championships.

Note the Soviets' technical skills; note their man-marking patterns. They may play 4-5-1 or 4-4-2 but either way they will play a sweeper and mark man-for-man.

RUMANIA: Rumania's reputation is for dour, disciplined, defensive footballers. That's an accurate rule of thumb. Their one team to achieve real international glory, Steaua Bucharest, won the 1986 European Champions' Cup by 'virtue' of holding Barcelona goalless then winning the penalty shoot-out.

Rumania do possess attacking players of high ability, but not many. Gheorhe Hagi is the midfield fulcrum and right-wing raider Marius Lacatus the most dangerous forward.

In defence the Rumanians play with a sweeper and mark man-for-man. They play 4-4-2 and they work extremely hard at closing down the opposition. A glance through a video of Steaua's 1986 European Cup win would be ideal preparation for covering any of their games.

GROUP C

BRAZIL: Brazil are the finest technical players in the world and this is reflected in the way they play the game and the tactics they use. In 1958 Brazil brought about a tactical revolution when they won the World Cup in Sweden with the 4-2-4 system i.e. four defenders in a line at the back, two midfielder and four forwards.

Everyone else was then using a variation of the WM, which had been introduced by Herbert Chapman in the 1930s and which involved a centre-back, two fullbacks pivoting to cover or mark the opposing winger, two wing-halves and two-inside forwards linking in midfield, two out-and-out wingers and a spearhead centre-forward.

After Brazil everyone changed. But the Brazilians themselves kept one jump ahead: at the 1962 World Cup in Chile they pulled the left winger (Zagalo) back into midfield. This gave Brazil a 4-3-3 formation and a one-man advantage in midfield over all those other countries who had switched to 4-2-4!

After that, however, Brazil stopped thinking tactically and used the same system for the following World Cups in 1966, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986. Wonderful individual talent took them to victory in 1970. But the Cups after that demonstrated that Brazil was falling behind.

Until Lazaroni.

He has brought to the Brazilian national a sweeper system and five-man defensive line. This brings Brazil back up-to-date tactically – which is important because the dramatic improvements in stamina and fitness standards in Europe and South America had rendered their old system obselete. Watch now how Brazil use the five-back system. The greater security means that attacking fullbacks such as Jorginho, Branco and Mazinho have great freedom still to wander the pitch – but without leaving the old fatal gaps at the back. Also, because of the wonderful technique of players up front such as Careca and Bebeto, Brazil are still wonderfully well equipped in attack.

Brazilian players have always appeared more relaxed on the ball than their European counterparts. The reason is simple: the Europeans have had to make up for (comparatively) inferior technique by running to create space in which to work; Brazilians have such mastery of the ball that they can work in the tightest of spaces.

It was that great ability which contributed to making them tactically lazy.

COSTA RICA: Do not expect any tactical innovations from Costa Rica. Their players are quite skilful and enjoy indulging their ability. But they risk being steamrollered by Scotland and Sweden because physically – for reasons which are as much sociological as anything else – they cannot match full-time European professionals for power and pace.

Costa Rica will play four at the back and four or five in midfield. Bora Milutinovic is an experienced, pragmatic, coach and he knows that the priority will be to escape from the World Cup with as little damage as possible.

Do not expect Costa Rica to come out and play. They will probably use a zone-marking system at the back – with the exception of one central defender on the opposition's main striker. But their midfield men will be using to close-mark and generally as an advanced line of defence.

The danger is that Costa Rica, whose players are part-timers, will forget their discipline when they gain possession and expose themselves to be hit on the break. Quesada is their most adventurous fullback and skipper Roger Flores likes to advance for corners and free kicks. It will be interesting to see whether Milutinovic tries to curb their individualism.

SCOTLAND: Northern European in style, though Scottish football has always retained a nostgalgic appreciation for the short-passing style they claim they invented.

Coach Andy Roxburgh is an observant, well-travelled coach. This was notable in the friendlies this spring against Argentina and East Germany when he experimented with a three-man central defence which could give his fullbacks a chance to attack and thus copy the five-man midfield with which Argentina won the last World Cup.

British players generally have a reputation for not thinking through tactics in such specific detail as other Europeans so Roxburgh's ambitious planning runs a danger of backfiring.

McKimmie and Malpas are both fullbacks who like to attack and the newcomer, Levein, has provided a welcome sight of pace in the centre of defence. Up front Scotland can be happy to rely in just two strikers as long as one of those is Johnston – who well knows how to look after himself against the toughest and most varied of defensive tactics and styles.

SWEDEN: The Swedish game has changed dramatically over the years. Once the Swedes were thought of as generally a phyisical side and their tactical and technical approach to the game mirrored that.

Over the past 20 years, however, the mass emigration of star players has changed all that. Stars abroad learned the technical tricks of the south and were, in turn, copied by the boys back home.

Now players such as Stromberg, Ekstrom, Pettersson, and Co provide the Swedes with the best of both worlds – strong, direct and quick but clever and imaginative with it. That is why more and more people are seeing the Swedes as World Cup dark horses (The draw also appears to favour them going a long way).

Tactically the Swedes keep it simple. Four at the back, four in midfield and two up front. Note how much control and influence over the play is exerted by the long-tried-and-tested centre back pairing of Larsson and Hysen.

GROUP D

WEST GERMANY: Back in the 1950s and 1960s the Germans were thought of as a typically northern European team. That is, their virtues were to be found in strength and commitment rather than skill and technique.

Then, in the early 1960s, the Germans introduced full-time professional football and – belatedly – a 'proper' first division. Until then the champions had been decided from a play-off tournament at the end of each season between the winners of the regional championships.

Looking back, what is remarkable is that it took the Germans so long. Once they had caught up in basic structure with the rest of Europe, however, they was no holding them. After the 1966 World Cup Final, Ron Greenwood once said: "The more I watch the film of that match, the more I expect the Germans to win." What he had seen was the vast potential of the German game being revealed. Players such as Franz Beckenbauer, Gunter Netzer, Wolfgang Overath and Gerd Muller set new standards for the international game. Beckenbauer was an attacking sweeper; one of the all-time greats. To accommodate him the rest of the German defence employed man-for-man marking and that formula has remained from that day to this. Basically the Germans keep a free man (Klaus Augenthaler) at the back, use two markers and stifle the opposition in midfield. A key role here is played by Internazionale's Andy Brehme, the versatile fullback-cum-midfielder who is particularly astute at using the space available wide on the wings. Up front Voller can be trusted to battle away; as for Jurgen Klinsmann, it will be interesting to see how his all-round game has developed after his first season in Italy.

West Germany all-rounder Jurgen Klinsmann grounded v Finland.

YUGOSLAVIA: Yugoslavia are the Argentina of Europe. They export coaches and players like nobody else. But there remains a fragility about Yugoslav teams away from home. They have skill and strength aplenty, but run short on confidence. This Yugoslav team will play a 4-4-2 or even 4-5-1 system which leans heavily on a workmanlike, man-for-man defence and the creative inspiration in midfield of Dragan Stojkovic – bound for Marseille for £3million-plus – and veteran Safet Susic.

Ahead of them will be Zlatko Vujovic – still the most consistent striker the Slavs have got if not necessarily the most dangerous on his day.

COLOMBIA: Manager Francisco Maturana's tactics are routine stuff – until one reaches almost to the last line of defence. This is where Rene Higuita takes over as goal-sweeper – the man who can make or break his country's campaign in Italy.

Colombia basically play 4-4-2 with Iguaran the most dangerous striker and Valderrama pulling the midfield strings – supported by the physical power of the likes of Redin. At the back Colombia play a flat back four and like to push forward as often as they can.

This often creates a concentration of eight Colombians – midfielder and defenders – almost falling over themselves in midfield. That may not be good for Colombia but it also has the effect of creating a pretty effective barrier to the opposition – trapping them like a fly in a web.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Dismissed boss Mario Zagalo had the right idea for the Emirates. He utilised cautious tactics, seeking to halt the opposition short of the goal area.

Thus the Emirates – albeit under a Zagalo successor in Carlos Alberto Parreirta – will play four or five at the back and use midfield as a defensive shield rather than as a springboard for attack. The Emirates' attitude to Italia '90 is to build a damage-limitation exercise which allows for only one scribe to wander in attack, far from the real crowd.

Continued overleaf

England and the Republic of Ireland are technically the same

Continued from previous page

GROUP E

BELGIUM: When Walter Meeuws succeeded Guy Thys as Belgium manager last summer he said that Belgian had earned respect through tight, disciplined, safety-first soccer. He wanted to develop a team which entertained as well.

Meeuws's plans turned out to be flawed so Thys was recalled this spring. At this stage there is no way Thys is going to experiment with new style. So it's back to basics for Belgium with a four or five-man back line and packed midfield.

The sheer physical presence of men such as Vervoort and Van der Elst makes the Belgians a match for anybody. Up front Vanderlinden will be their one fulltime striker with the likes of Degryse or Nilis employed in support – somewhere between Vanderlinden and midfield. Once more the Belgians do not promise to be pretty but they do look effective.

SPAIN: Spain's total has never been equal to the sum of its individuals. This again threatens to be the case. Indeed, manager Luis Suarez and the nation's fans will hope there are no repeats of events at the last European championship when Spain began with a bright win over Denmark, then lost their grip in both midfield and defence.

When it comes to potential, Spain have everything. The defence is a crisp tackling unit with four men virtually in line and the fullbacks marking whoever turns out to be their opposing 'winger'.

In midfield the entire Spanish campaign depends on the form of Michel and Martin Vazquez. If they play well and can keep their markers at bay – something Michel finds more difficult than the more physical Martin Vazquez – Spain can do well. But if they fail, then no proper supply of the ball can reach Butragueno up front and Spain's attack will wither.

This is where the selection of Julio Salinas may be a vast importance; a man to take the hard knocks and a lot of the attention otherwise aimed at Butragueno when competition starts.

URUGUAY: Uruguayan tactics are very different to anything else. The players are hugely skilful but their attention to discipline and detail rests on the impatient – and the bad-tempered.

Manager Washington Tabarez says that the Uruguayan leopard has changed its spots but the World Cup will believe it when it sees it. Uruguayan football initially adapted the old 2-3-5 formation in a manner at variance with the rest of the game. The wing halves became fullbacks, all the fullbacks became centre backs.

This is why a Uruguayan team today generally numbers the centre-backs as 2 and 3 while the key midfielder is the No 5 – the descendant of the old attacking cenrte-half of the 1930s. The Uruguayans have adapted, of course, in a safety-first manner.

Four at the back, four in midfield, Francescoli ahead of them and then Ruben Sosa abandoned up front.

The Uruguayans made a bright impression recently in drawing 3-3 with West Germany. But Uruguay traditionally closes ranks for the World Cup. They will play tight and hard and will let nothing past. They may do that with a little more grace and finesse than in the past – but that's all.

SOUTH KOREA: In Mexico the South Koreans dislayed almost too much knowledge of the western professional game as they hauled down Maradona at every opportunity. This time the Koreans will again seek to make their mark, though in possibly a more satisfying way. They will be playing 4-4-2 or 4-5-1, relying on defence to hold firm and the pace of Kim Jong-soo to create openings on the break.

GROUP F

ENGLAND: Typical Northern European side, full of hard workers with plenty of pace in attack and plenty of strength (and lack of pace) at the back. One of England's strengths – which foreigners always admire – is the 90-minute team spirit which means they are always dangerous.

England play 4-4-2. Their variation is in using wingers such as Waddle and Barnes on the wings in midfield so they can use they can use their pace and attacking skills to provide valuable extra support for Lineker and Beardsley up front. Beardsley is also adept at dropping back at a decoy towards midfield to pull defenders out of position.

REP IRELAND: Play is technically the English way, hardly surprisingly. But the Irish tend to mass in a back line of five defenders and look to hit their strikers with long balls – thus cutting out all the fuss of midfield. Not attractive – but effective.

EGYPT: Highly technical game. The Egyptians have excellent skill on the ball, as they proved at times with their impressive 3-1 victory over Scotland, but their temperament puts a question mark against their tactical discipline. They will play 4-4-2, maybe even 4-5-1. But if the run of the ball goes against them under the pressure of the World Cup, they could lose both their shape (a soccer buzz word, nowadays) and their tempers and an awful lot of goals.

HOLLAND: One of the most exciting teams in the world because of the way they mix both schools of play. The Dutch have strength and power but also a remarkable level of skill.

Most of their players grew up admiring the Dutch team of the1970s which played 'total football' – a one-off style which owed everything to the amount of positional inter-changing which was possible with players of enormous technical talent and intelligence.

This Dutch side is not as free-wheeling as the 1974 team, but it is equally as intelligent. Tactically the Dutch play 4-4-2... but it's what they do within that basic framework which makes them different from virtually anyone else.

Centre-backs Rijkaard and Ronald Koeman takes in turns to add their varied talents to the attacking effort; Wouters is the midfield workhorse; Gullit and Van Basten up front provide such a multiplicity of talents that many a defence may be confused as to which one deserves double-marking.

LINE-UPS FROM THE PAST

DIAGRAMS demonstrating the development of World Cup-winning tactics. Starting with the 2-3-5 of Uruguay in 1930, developing to the stopper centre-half of Italy in 1938 and which held sway for 20 years until Brazil revealed the 4-2-4 in 1958. Brazil refined that to 4-3-3 in 1962 and England turned it into the workhorse 4-4-2 in 1966. West Germany, in 1974, triumphed with a sweeper system thanks largely to the fact that the sweeper in question was the great Franz Beckenbauer, who interpreted his role in a positive manner. Finally, Argentina in 1986 used the security of the sweeper concept to redevelop the balance of personnel in defence and midfield.

URUGUAY 1930

BALLESTREROS
NASAZZI MASCHERONI
ANDRADE GESTIDO FERNANDEZ
SCARONE CEA
DORADO CASTRO IRIARTE

ITALY 1934

COMBI
MONZEGLIO ALLEMANDI
FERRARIS MONTI BERTOLINI
MEAZZA FERRARI
GUAITA SCHIAVIO ORSI

ITALY 1938

OLIVIERI
FONI RAVA
ANDREOLO
SERANTONI LOCATELLI
MEAZZA FERRARI
BIAVATI PIOLA COLAUSSI

BRAZIL 1958

GILMAR
D.SANTOS BELLINI ORLANDO N. SANTOS
ZITO DIDI
GARRINCHA VAVA PELE ZAGALO

BRAZIL 1962

GILMAR
D. SANTOS MAURO ZOZIMO N. SANTOS
ZITO DIDI ZAGALO
GARRINCHA VAVA AMARILDO

ENGLAND 1966

BANKS
COHEN J. CHARLTON MOORE WILSON
STILES B. CHARLTON
BALL PETERS
HUNT HURST

WEST GERMANY 1974

MAIER
BECKENBAUER
VOGTS SCHWARZENBECK BREITNER
BONHOF OVERATH
HOENESS
GRABOWSKI MÜLLER HÖLZENBEIN

ARGENTINA 1986

PUMPIDO
RUGGERI
BROWN CUCIUFFO
BATISTA
GIUSTI BURRUCHAGA ENRIQUE OLARTICOECHEA
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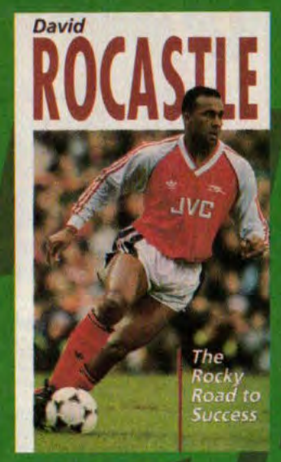

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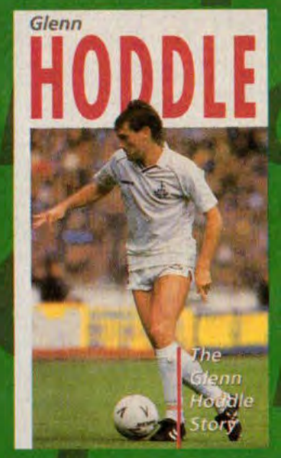

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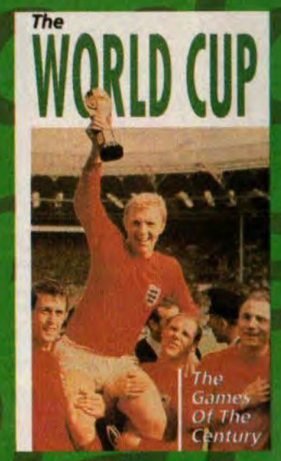

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England's game against Argentina in Mexico City attracted a massive 114,800 fans.

The World Cup is a time and occasion for records to be made and broken. Here we take a look at some of the more interesting facts and figures from previous Finals . . .

PENALTIES

Game by game:
2 Teofilo Cubillas (Peru v Iran, 1978)
Eusebio (Portugal v North Korea, 1966)
Johan Neeskens (Holland v Bulgaria, 1974)
Rob Rensenbrink (Holland v Iran, 1978)
Fritz Walter (West Germany v Austria, 1954)

PENALTIES OVERALL

4 Eusebio (Portugal, 1966)
Rob Rensenbrink (Holland, 1978)
3 Johan Neeskens (Holland, 1974)
Igor Belanov (Soviet Union, 1986)
Teofilo Cubillas (Peru, 1978)
Ron Flowers (England, 1962)
Jesper Olsen (Denmark, 1986)
Antonin Panenka (Czechoslovakia, 1982)
Fritz Walter (West Germany, 1954)

TOP APPEARANCES

Aggregate games:
21 Uwe Seeler (West Germany)
Wladyslaw Zmuda (Poland)
20 Grzegorz Lato (Poland)
19 Wolfgang Overath (West Germany)
Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (West Germany)
Hans-Hubert 'Berti' Vogts (West Germany)
18 Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany)
Antonio Cabrini (Italy)
Mario Kempes (Argentina)
Sepp Maier (West Germany)
Gaetano Scirea (Italy)
7 Karl-Heinz Schnellinger (West Germany)
Dino Zoff (Italy)
6 Zbigniew Boniek (Poland)
Jairzinho (Brazil)

Aggregate Overall:
5 Antonio Carbajal (Mexico: 1950, 1954, 1958, 1962, 1966)
4 Pele (Brazil: 1958, 1962, 1966, 1970)
Gianni Rivera (Italy: 1962, 1966, 1970, 1974)
Pedro Rocha (Uruguay: 1962, 1966, 1970, 1974)
Djalma Santos (Brazil: 1954, 1958, 1962, 1966)
Karl-Heinz Schnellinger (West Germany: 1958, 1962, 1966, 1970)
Uwe Seeler (West Germany: 1958, 1962, 1966, 1970)
Wladyslaw Zmuda (Poland: 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986)
*An aggregate of three Cups is shared by 65 players

Neeskens scored three spot-kicks for Holland during the 1974 Tournament, including this one against West Germany.

Antonio Cabrini has made 18 World Cup appearances for Italy.

TOP SCORING NATIONS

Game by game:
10 Hungary (10-1 v El Salvador, 1982)
9 Hungary (9-0 v South Korea, 1954)
Yugoslavia (9-0 v Zaire, 1974)
8 Hungary (8-3 v West Germany, 1954)
Sweden (8-0 v Cuba, 1938)
Uruguay (8-0 v Bolivia, 1950)
7 Austria (7-5 v Switzerland, 1954)
Brazil (7-1 v Sweden, 1950)
France (7-3 v Paraguay, 1958)
Italy (7-1 v United States, 1934)
Poland (7-0 v Haiti, 1974)
Turkey (7-0 v South Korea, 1954)
Uruguay (7-0 v Scotland, 1954)
West Germany (7-0 v Turkey, 1954)

TOP SCORING NATIONS OVERALL

27 Hungary (1954)
23 France (1958)
22 Brazil (1950)
19 Brazil (1970)
18 Argentina (1930)
17 Portugal (1966)
16 France (1982)
Poland (1974)
15 Hungary (1938)
Argentina (1978)
Holland (1978)
4 Argentina (1986)
Brazil (1962)
2 Italy (1934)

TOP SCORERS

Game by game:
4 Ademir (Brazil v Sweden, 1950)
4 Emilio Butragueno (Spain v Denmark, 1986)
4 Eusebio (Portugal v North Korea, 1966)
4 Just Fontaine (France v West Germany, 1958)
4 Leonidas (Brazil v Poland, 1938)
4 Juan Schiaffino (Uruguay v Bolivia, 1950)
4 Gustav Wetterstrom (Sweden v Cuba, 1938)
4 Ernst Wilimowski (Poland v Brazil, 1938)
*There have been 20 hat-tricks.

TOP SCORERS INDIVIDUALS

Overall:
13 Just Fontaine (France, 1958)
11 Sandor Kocsis (Hungary, 1954)
10 Gerd Muller (West Germany, 1970)
9 Eusebio (Portugal, 1966)
8 Ademir (Brazil, 1950)
8 Leonidas (Brazil, 1938)
8 Guillermo Stabile (Argentina, 1930)
7 Jairzinho (Brazil, 1970)
7 Grzegorz Lato (Poland, 1974)
7 Helmut Rahn (West Germany, 1958)
7 Gyula Szengeller (Hungary, 1938)

Spain sharp-shooter Butragueno hit four against Denmark in 1986.

SHUT-OUTS

Shut-outs Cup by Cup (number of games 'keepers remained unbeaten):
5 Jan Jongbloed (Holland, 1974)
4 Gordon Banks (England, 1966)
Gilmar (Brazil, 1958)
Emerson Leao (Brazil, 1974)
Emerson Leao (Brazil, 1978)
Sepp Maier (West Germany, 1974)
Sepp Maier (West Germany, 1978)
Jozef Mlynarczuk (Poland, 1982)
Peter Shilton (England, 1982)

BEST PLAYER

Cup by Cup:
1970 (unofficial) Pele (Brazil)
1974 (unofficial) Johan Cruyff (Holland)
1978 (unofficial) Mario Kempes (Argentina)
1982 (official) Paolo Rossi (Italy)
1986 (official) Diego Maradona (Argentina)

REFEREES APPEARANCES

Game aggregate:
7 John Langenus (Belgium: 1930, 1934, 1938)
Juan Gardeazabal (Spain: 1958, 1962, 1966)
Mervyn Griffiths (Wales: 1950, 1954, 1958)
Ivan Eklund (Sweden: 1934, 1938, 1950)
Arthur Ellis (England: 1950, 1954, 1958)
Nikolai Latyshev (Soviet Union: 1958, 1962, 1966)
5 Ramon Barreto Ruiz (Uruguay: 1970,1974, 1978)
Gottfried Dienst (Switzerland: 1962, 1966)
Abraham Klein (Israel: 1970, 1978, 1982)
Nicolae Rainea (Rumania: 1974, 1978, 1982)
Arturo Yamasaki (Peru/Mexico: 1962, 1970)
Istvan Zsolt (Hungary: 1954, 1958, 1966)
Marcel Guigue (France: 1958)
Reg Leafe (England: 1950, 1958)
Karoly Palotai (Hungary: 1974, 1978, 1982)
Rudolf Scheurer (Switzerland: 1970, 1974)
Pierre Schwinte (France: 1962, 1966)
Jack Taylor (England: 1970, 1974)
Paul Wyssling (Switzerland: 1954, 1958)

APPEARANCES

Single-tournament Appearances:
4 John Langenus (Belgium: 1930)
Marcel Guigue (France: 1958)
Nikolai Latyshev (Soviet Union: 1962)
3 Rinaldo Barlassini (Italy: 1934)
Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brazil: 1986)
Galeati (Italy: 1950)
Juan Gardeazabal (Spain: 1962)
Mervyn Griffiths (Wales: 1954)
Leo Horn (Holland: 1962)
Abraham Klein (Israel: 1978)
George Reader (England: 1950)
Gilberto de Almeida Rego (Brazil: 1930)
Jack Taylor (England: 1974)
Arturo Yamasaki (Peru: 1962)

TOP ATTENDANCES

Game by game:
203,849 Brazil v Uruguay (Rio de Janeiro, 1950)
130,000 Brazil v Spain (Rio de Janeiro, 1950)
114,800 Argentina v West Germany (Mexico City, 1986)
114,500 Argentina v England (Mexico City, 1986)
107,000 Brazil v Italy (Mexico City, 1970)
93,000 England v West Germany (Wembley, 1966)
90,000 England v Portugal (Wembley, 1966)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Cup by Cup:
60,773 Brazil (1950)
52,312 Mexico (1970)
50,459 England (1966)
46,956 Mexico (1986)
46,685 West Germany (1974)
36,269 Switzerland (1954)
35,698 Spain (1982)
26,833 France (1938)
24,800 Sweden (1958)
24,250 Chile (1962)
24,139 Uruguay (1930)
23,235 Italy (1934)

ATTENDANCE OVERALL TOTAL

Cup by Cup:
2,441,731 Mexico (1986)
1,856,277 Spain (1982)
1,774,022 West Germany (1974)
1,673,975 Mexico (1970)
1,614,677 England (1966)
1,610,215 Argentina (1978)
1,337,000 Brazil (1950)
943,000 Switzerland (1954)
868,000 Sweden (1958)
776,000 Chile (1962)
483,000 France (1938)
434,500 Uruguay (1930)
395,000 Italy (1934)

*The 1930 World Cup was the only one for which no qualifying competition took place and which was played in only one city (Montevideo). Only 13 nations entered.

*Just Fontaine scored 13 goals for France in the 1958 finals, which remains a single-tournament record. But the record aggregate goals in finals tournaments is held by West Germany's Gerd Muller, who totalled 14 in 1970 and 1974.

*Uwe Seeler of West Germany and Wladyslaw Zmuda of Poland share the record for appearances at the World Cup finals – 21.

*Mexico's Antonio Carbajal appeared in a record five finals tournaments. His first match was a 4-0 defeat by Brazil in 1950, his last match a 0-0 draw against Uruguay in 1966.

*Mario Zagalo is the only man to have won the World Cup both as player and manager. He played for Brazil in 1958 and 1962 and was manager in 1970.

*West Germany have appeared in the World Cup Final on a record five occasions. They are also the only nation to have been beaten three times in the Final – by England in 1966, by Italy in 1982 and by Argentina in 1986.

*Red and yellow expulsion and caution cards were introduced to the World Cup at the 1970 finals in Mexico. Referee Kurt Tschenscher of West Germany was the first World Cup referee to 'yellow card' a player – Yevgeni Lovchev of the Soviet Union.

*Substitutes were introduced to the World Cup for the first time at the 1970 finals in Mexico. The first-ever substitute to appear was the Soviet player Anatoly Puzach, who appeared at the start of the second half in the Opening Match against Mexico, in place of Viktor Serebrianikov.

*Only two players have scored in every round of the finals – Just Fontaine of France in 1958 and Jairzinho of Brazil in 1970.

*Norman Whiteside became the youngest player to appear in the finals when he lined up for Northern Ireland in Spain in 1982 aged 17 years one month 10 days.

*In both 1934 and 1982 Italy were captained to victory by the Juventus goalkeeper – Giampiero Combi in 1934 then Dino Zoff in 1982.

*Scotland were the only unbeaten nation after the 1974 finals, yet they were eliminated in the first round.

*Pele totalled 12 goals in 14 World Cup finals appearances. He was a member of Brazil's winning team in 1958 and 1970 but was injured early in the 1962 finals and missed the climactic 3-1 win over Czechoslovakia.

*Vava of Brazil is the only man to have scored goals in successive Final matches. Vava scored twice in Brazil's victory over Sweden in 1958 and then one four years later against Czechoslovakia.

*The first goal in World Cup history was scored by Frenchman Lucien Laurent against Mexico in Montevideo in 1930. The 1,000th goal was scored by Rob Rensenbrink against Scotland in Mendoza in 1978.

*Two sets of brothers have won the World Cup: Fritz and Ottmar Walter of West Germany in 1954 and then Bobby and Jack Charlton of England in 1966.

*The original World Cup – renamed the Jules Rimet trophy in 1946 – was awarded in perpetuity to Brazil after their third victory in 1970. The trophy was later stolen from Brazilian confederation offices in Rio de Janeiro and melted down.

ITALIA'90 Qualifying Rounds

EUROPE

GROUP 1

9.10.88 Greece v Denmark 1-1
19.10.88 Bulgaria v Rumania 1-3
2.11.88 Rumania v Greece 3-0
2.11.88 Denmark v Bulgaria 1-1
26.4.89 Greece v Rumania 0-0
26.4.89 Bulgaria v Denmark 0-2
17.5.89 Rumania v Bulgaria 1-0
17.5.89 Denmark v Greece 7-1
11.10.89 Bulgaria v Greece 4-0
11.10.89 Denmark v Rumania 3-0
15.11.89 Greece v Bulgaria 1-0
15.11.89 Rumania v Denmark 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Rumania	6	4	1	1	10	5 9
Denmark	6	3	2	1	15	6 8
Greece	6	1	2	3	3	15 4
Bulgaria	6	1	1	4	6	8 3

RUMANIA qualify for finals.

GROUP 2

19.10.88 England v Sweden 0-0
19.10.88 Poland v Albania 1-0
5.11.88 Albania v Sweden 1-2
8.3.89 Albania v England 0-2
26.4.89 England v Albania 5-0
7.5.89 Sweden v Poland 2-1
3.6.89 England v Poland 3-0
6.8.89 Sweden v England 0-0
8.10.89 Sweden v Albania 3-1
11.10.89 Poland v England 0-0
25.10.89 Poland v Sweden 0-2
15.11.89 Albania v Poland 1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Sweden	6	4	2	0	9	3 10
England	6	3	3	0	10	0 9
Poland	6	2	1	3	4	8 5
Albania	6	0	0	6	3	15 0

SWEDEN,ENGLAND qualify for the finals.

GROUP 3

31.8.88 Iceland v Soviet Union 1-1
12.10.88 Turkey v Iceland 1-1
19.10.88 Soviet Union v Austria 2-0
19.10.88 East Germany v Iceland 2-0
2.11.88 Austria v Turkey 3-2
30.11.88 Turkey v East Germany 3-1
12.4.89 East Germany v Turkey 0-2
26.4.89 Soviet Union v East Germany 3-0
10.5.89 Turkey v Soviet Union 0-1
20.5.89 East Germany v Austria 1-1
31.5.89 Soviet Union v Iceland 1-1
14.6.89 Iceland v Austria 0-0
23.8.89 Austria v Iceland 2-1
6.9.89 Austria v Soviet Union 0-0
6.9.89 Iceland v East Germany 0-3
20.9.89 Iceland v Turkey 2-1
8.10.89 East Germany v Soviet Union 2-1
25.10.89 Turkey v Austria 3-0
15.11.89 Soviet Union v Turkey 2-0
15.11.89 Austria v East Germany 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Soviet Union	8	4	3	1	11	4 11
Austria	8	3	3	2	9	9 9
Turkey	8	3	1	4	12	10 7
East Germany	8	3	1	4	9	13 7
Iceland	8	1	4	3	6	11 6

SOV. UNION, AUSTRIA qualify for finals.

GROUP 4

31.8.88 Finland v West Germany 0-4
14.8.88 Holland v Wales 1-0
19.10.88 Wales v Finland 2-2
19.10.88 West Germany v Holland 0-0
24.4.89 Holland v West Germany 1-1
31.5.89 Wales v West Germany 0-0
31.5.89 Finland v Holland 0-1
6.9.89 Finland v Wales 1-0
4.10.89 West Germany v Finland 6-1
11.10.89 Wales v Holland 1-2
15.11.89 West Germany v Wales 2-1
15.11.89 Holland v Finland 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Holland	6	4	2	0	8	2 10
West Germany	6	3	3	0	13	3 9
Finland	6	1	1	4	4	16 3
Wales	6	0	2	4	4	8 2

HOLLAND, W. GERMANY qualify for finals.

Belgium and Czechoslovakia qualified from Group 7.

GROUP 5

14.9.88 Norway v Scotland 1-2
28.9.88 France v Norway 1-0
19.10.88 Scotland v Yugoslavia 1-1
22.10.88 Cyprus v France 1-1
2.11.88 Cyprus v Norway 0-3
19.11.88 Yugoslavia v France 3-2
11.12.88 Yugoslavia v Cyprus 4-0
8.2.89 Cyprus v Scotland 2-3
8.2.89 Scotland v France 2-0
26.4.89 Scotland v Cyprus 2-1
29.4.89 France v Yugoslavia 0-0
21.5.89 Norway v Cyprus 3-1
14.6.89 Norway v Yugoslavia 1-2
5.9.89 Norway v France 1-1
6.9.89 Yugoslavia v Scotland 3-1
11.10.89 Yugoslavia v Norway 1-0
11.10.89 France v Scotland 3-0
28.10.89 Cyprus v Yugoslavia 1-2
15.11.89 Scotland v Norway 1-1
18.11.89 France v Cyprus 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Yugoslavia	8	6	2	0	16	6 14
Scotland	8	4	2	2	12	12 10
France	8	3	3	2	10	7 9
Norway	8	2	2	4	10	9 6
Cyprus	8	0	1	7	6	20 1

YUGOSLAVIA, SCOTLAND qualify for the finals

GROUP 6

21.5.88 Northern Ireland v Malta 3-0
14.9.88 N.Ireland v Rep.Ireland 0-0
19.10.88 Hungary v Northern Ireland 1-0
16.11.88 Spain v Rep.Ireland 2-0
11.12.88 Malta v Hungary 2-2
21.12.88 Spain v Northern Ireland 4-0
22.1.89 Malta v Spain 0-2
8.2.89 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-2
8.3.89 Hungary v Rep.Ireland 0-0
22.3.89 Spain v Malta 4-0
12.4.89 Hungary v Malta 1-1
26.4.89 Malta v Northern Ireland 0-2
26.4.89 Rep.Ireland v Spain 1-0
28.5.89 Rep.Ireland v Malta 2-0
4.6.89 Rep.Ireland v Hungary 2-0
6.9.89 Northern Ireland v Hungary 1-2
11.10.89 Hungary v Spain 2-2
11.10.89 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland 3-0
15.11.89 Spain v Hungary 4-0
15.11.89 Malta v Rep.Ireland 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Spain	8	6	1	1	20	3 13
Rep. Ireland	8	5	2	1	10	2 12
Hungary	8	2	4	2	8	12 8
Northern Ireland	8	2	1	5	6	12 5
Malta	8	0	2	6	3	18 2

SPAIN, REP. IRELAND qualify for the finals.

GROUP 7

1.9.88 Luxembourg v Switzerland 1-4
19.10.88 Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia 0-2
19.10.88 Belgium v Switzerland 1-0
16.11.88 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 0-0
16.11.88 Portugal v Luxembourg 1-0
15.2.89 Portugal v Belgium 1-1
26.4.89 Portugal v Switzerland 3-1
30.4.89 Belgium v Czechoslovakia 2-1
19.5.89 Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg 4-0
1.6.89 Luxembourg v Belgium 0-5
7.6.89 Switzerland v Czechoslovakia 0-1
6.9.89 Belgium v Portugal 3-0
20.9.89 Switzerland v Portugal 1-2
6.10.89 Czechoslovakia v Portugal 2-1
11.10.89 Luxembourg v Portugal 0-3
11.10.89 Switzerland v Belgium 2-2
25.10.89 Czechoslovakia v Switzerland 3-0
25.10.89 Belgium v Luxembourg 1-1
15.11.89 Portugal v Czechoslovakia 0-0
15.11.89 Switzerland v Luxembourg 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Belgium	8	4	4	0	15	5 12
Czechoslovakia	8	5	2	1	13	3 12
Portugal	8	4	2	2	11	8 10
Switzerland	8	2	1	5	10	14 5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	3	22 1

BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA qualify for finals.

Winners and runners-up from groups 3,5,6 and 7 qualify for the finals along with the winners of groups 1,2 and 4 plus the two runners-up from groups 1,2 and 4 with the best comparative records.

AFRICA

ROUND 1

7.8.88 Angola v Sudan 0-0
11.11.88 Sudan v Angola 1-2
Angola 2-1 on agg
Zimbabwe w/o v Lesotho
Zambia w/o v Rwanda (withdrew)
16.7.88 Uganda v Malawi 1-0
30.7.88 Malawi v Uganda 3-1
Malawi 3-2 on agg
3.6.89 Libya v Burkino Faso 3-0
3.7.89 Burkino Faso v Libya 2-0
Libya 3-2 on agg
7.8.88 Ghana v Liberia 0-0
21.8.88 Liberia v Ghana 2-0
Liberia 2-0 on agg
5.8.88 Tunisia v Guinea 5-0
21.8.88 Guinea v Tunisia 3-0
Tunisia 5-3 on agg
Gabon w/o v Togo

ROUND 2

Group A
6.1.89 Algeria v Zimbabwe 3-0
22.1.89 Zimbabwe v Ivory Coast 0-0
11.6.89 Ivory Coast v Algeria 0-0
25.6.89 Zimbabwe v Algeria 1-2
13.8.89 Ivory Coast v Zimbabwe 5-0
25.8.89 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Algeria	4	3	1	0	6	1 7
Ivory Coast	4	1	2	1	5	1 4
Zimbabwe	4	0	1	3	1	10 1

Group B
6.1.89 Egypt v Liberia 2-0
7.1.89 Kenya v Malawi 1-1
21.1.89 Malawi v Egypt 1-1
22.1.89 Liberia v Kenya 0-0
10.6.89 Kenya v Egypt 0-0
11.6.89 Liberia v Malawi 1-0
24.6.89 Malawi v Kenya 1-0
25.6.89 Liberia v Egypt 1-0
11.8.89 Egypt v Malawi 1-0
12.8.89 Kenya v Liberia 1-0
25.8.89 Egypt v Kenya 2-0
26.8.89 Malawi v Liberia 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Egypt	6	3	2	1	6	2 8
Liberia	6	2	2	2	2	3 6
Malawi	6	1	3	2	3	4 5
Kenya	6	1	3	2	2	4 5

Group C
7.1.89 Nigeria v Gabon 1-0
8.1.89 Cameroon v Angola 1-1
22.1.89 Gabon v Cameroon 1-3
22.1.89 Angola v Nigeria 2-2
10.6.89 Nigeria v Cameroon 2-0
10.6.89 Angola v Gabon 2-0
25.6.89 Angola v Cameroon 1-2
25.6.89 Gabon v Nigeria 2-1
12.8.89 Nigeria v Angola 1-0
13.8.89 Cameroon v Gabon 2-1
27.8.89 Cameroon v Nigeria 1-0
27.8.89 Gabon v Angola 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Cameroon	6	4	1	1	9	6 9
Nigeria	6	3	1	2	7	5 7
Angola	6	1	2	3	6	7 4
Gabon	6	2	0	4	5	9 4

Group D
8.1.89 Morocco v Zambia 1-0
8.1.89 Zaire v Tunisia 3-1
22.1.89 Tunisia v Morocco 2-1
22.1.89 Zambia v Zaire 4-2
11.6.89 Zaire v Morocco 0-0
11.6.89 Zambia v Tunisia 1-0
25.6.89 Zambia v Morocco 2-1
25.6.89 Tunisia v Zaire 1-0
13.8.89 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0
13.8.89 Zaire v Zambia 1-0
25.8.89 Tunisia v Zambia 1-0
27.8.89 Morocco v Zaire 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Tunisia	6	3	1	2	5	5 7
Zambia	6	3	0	3	7	6 6
Zaire	6	2	2	2	7	7 6
Morocco	6	1	3	2	4	5 5

ROUND 3

8.10.89 Algeria v Egypt 0-0
8.10.89 Cameroon v Tunisia 2-0
22.10.89 Egypt v Algeria 1-0
19.11.89 Tunisia v Cameroon 0-1

EGYPT (1-0 agg) and CAMEROON (3-0 agg) qualify for finals.

ASIA

WEST ASIA

Group 1: Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar.
6.1.89 Qatar v Jordan 1-0
6.1.89 Oman v Iraq 1-1
13.1.89 Oman v Qatar 0-0
13.1.89 Jordan v Iraq 0-1
20.1.89 Jordan v Oman 2-0
20.1.89 Qatar v Iraq 1-0
27.1.89 Jordan v Qatar 1-1
27.1.89 Iraq v Oman 3-1
3.2.89 Qatar v Oman 3-0
3.2.89 Iraq v Jordan 4-0
10.2.89 Oman v Jordan 0-2
10.2.89 Iraq v Qatar 2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Qatar	6	3	3	0	8	3 9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	5 8
Jordan	6	2	1	3	5	7 5
Oman	6	0	2	4	2	11 2

The United Arab Emirates will be competing in their first finals.

Group 2 (Bahrain withdrew)
10.3.89 Yemen AR v Syria 0-1
15.3.89 Saudi Arabia v Syria 5-4
20.3.89 Yemen AR v Saudi Arabia 0-1
25.3.89 Syria v Yemen AR 2-0
30.3.89 Syria v Saudi Arabia 0-0
5.4.89 Saudi Arabia v Yemen AR 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
S. Arabia	4	3	1	0	7	4 7
Syria	4	2	1	1	7	5 5
Yemen AR	4	0	0	4	0	5 0

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Pakistan (RP'South'Yemen withdrew)
6.1.89 Pakistan v Kuwait 0-1
13.1.89 Kuwait v UAE 3-2
20.1.89 UAE v Pakistan 5-0
27.1.89 Kuwait v Pakistan 2-0
3.2.89 UAE v Kuwait 1-0
10.2.89 Pakistan v UAE 1-4

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
UAE	4	3	0	1	12	4 6
Kuwait	4	3	0	1	6	3 6
Pakistan	4	0	0	4	1	2 0

EAST ASIA

Group 4: (India withdrew so Nepal switched from Group 5)
Following matches all in S.Korea:
23.5.89 Malaysia v Nepal 2-0
23.5.89 Singapore v S.Korea 0-3
25.5.89 Malaysia v Singapore 1-0
25.5.89 Nepal v S. Korea 0-9
27.5.89 Singapore v Nepal 3-0
27.5.89 S.Korea v Malaysia 3-0
Following matches all in Singapore:
3.6.89 Singapore v Malaysia 2-2
3.6.89 S. Korea v Nepal 4-0
5.6.89 Malaysia v S.Korea 0-3
5.6.89 Nepal v Singapore 0-7
7.6.89 Singapore v S.Korea 0-3
7.6.89 Malaysia v Nepal 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
South Korea	6	6	0	0	25	0 12
Malaysia	6	3	1	2	8	8 7
Singapore	6	2	1	3	12	9 5
Nepal	6	0	0	6	0	28 0

Group 5
20.2.89 Thailand v Bangladesh 1-0
23.2.89 China v Bangladesh 2-0
23.2.89 Thailand v Iran 0-3
27.2.89 Bangladesh v Iran 1-2
28.2.89 Thailand v China 0-3
4.3.89 Bangladesh v China 0-2
8.3.89 Bangladesh v Thailand 3-1
17.2.89 Iran v Bangladesh 1-0
30.5.89 Iran v Thailand 3-0
15.7.89 China v Iran 2-0
22.7.89 Iran v China 3-2
29.7.89 China v Thailand 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
China	6	5	0	1	13	3 10
Iran	6	5	0	1	12	7 10
Bangladesh	6	1	0	5	4	9 2
Thailand	6	1	0	5	2	14 2

Group 6
21.5.89 Indonesia v N.Korea 0-0
21.5.89 Hong Kong v Japan 0-0
27.5.89 Hong Kong v N.Korea 1-2
28.5.89 Indonesia v Japan 0-0
4.6.89 Hong Kong v Indonesia 1-1
4.6.89 Japan v N. Korea 2-1
11.6.89 Japan v Indonesia 5-0
18.6.89 Japan v Hong Kong 0-0
25.6.89 N. Korea v Japan 2-0
2.7.89 N. Korea v Hong Kong 4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
North Korea	5	3	1	1	9	4 7
Japan	6	2	3	1	7	3 7
Hong Kong	6	0	3	3	5	10 3
Indonesia	5	1	3	1	4	8 3

Round Two
(Play-off section in Singapore, except for UAE v S.Korea in Kuala Lumpur and S. Arabia v N. Korea in Kuanton).
12.10.89 UAE v N. Korea 0-0
12.10.89 China v Saudi Arabia 2-1
13.10.89 S. Korea v Qatar 0-0
16.10.89 Qatar v Saudi Arabia 1-1
16.10.89 S. Korea v N. Korea 1-0
17.10.89 China v UAE 1-2
20.10.89 China v S.Korea 0-1
20.10.89 N. Korea v Qatar 2-0
21.10.89 Saudi Arabia v UAE 0-0
24.10.89 UAE v Qatar 1-1
24.10.89 N. Korea v China 0-1
25.10.89 Saudi Arabia v S. Korea 0-2
28.10.89 UAE v S.Korea 1-1
28.10.89 Saudi Arabia v N. Korea 2-0
28.10.89 Qatar v China 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
South Korea	5	3	2	0	5	1 8
UAE	5	1	4	0	4	3 6
Qatar	5	1	3	1	4	5 5
China	5	2	0	3	5	6 4
S. Arabia	5	1	2	2	4	5 4
N. Korea	5	1	1	3	2	4 3

S. KOREA, UAE qualify for finals.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Round 1
19.6.88 Antiqua v Neth.Antilles 0-1
29.7.88 Neth.Antilles v Antiqua 3-1
Neth. Antilles 4-1 on agg. aet
12.5.88 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 1-0
29.5.88 Puerto Rice v Jamaica 1-2
Jamaica 3-1 on agg
17.4.88 Guyana v Trinidad/Tobago 0-4
8.5.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Guyana 1-0
Trinidad/Tobago 5-0 on agg
17.7.88 Costa Rica v Panama 1-0
31.7.88 Panama v Costa Rica 0-2
Costa Rica 3-1 on agg
30.4.88 Cuba v Guatemala 0-1
15.5.88 Guatemala v Cuba 1-1
Guatemala 2-1 on agg

ROUND TWO

1.10.88 Neth.Antilles v El Salvador 0-1
16.10.88 El Salvador v Neth.Antilles 5-0
El Salvador 6-0 on agg
30.10.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Honduras 0-0
13.11.88 Honduras v Trinidad/Tobago 1-1
Trinidad/Tobago on away goal: 1-1 agg
24.7.88 Jamaica v United States 0-0
13.8.88 United States v Jamaica 5-1
United States 5-1 on agg
9.10.88 Guatemala v Canada 1-0
15.10.88 Canada v Guatemala 3-2
Guatemala on away goals: 3-3 agg
Costa Rica w/o v Mexico

ROUND THREE

19.3.89 Guatemala v Costa Rica 1-0
2.4.89 Costa Rica v Guatemala 2-1
16.4.89 Costa Rica v United States 1-0
30.4.89 United States v Costa Rica 1-0
13.5.89 United States v Trin/Tobago 1-1
28.5.89 Trinidad/Tobago v Costa Rica 1-1
11.6.89 Costa Rica v Trinidad/Tobago 1-0
17.6.89 United States v Guatemala 2-1
25.6.89 El Salvador v Costa Rica 2-4
16.7.89 Costa Rica v El Salvador 1-0
30.7.89 Trin/Tobago v El Salvador 2-0
13.8.89 El Salvador v Trin/Tobago 0-0
20.8.89 Guatemala v Trin/Tobago 0-1
3.9.89 Trin/Tobago v Guatemala 2-1
17.9.89 El Salvador v United States 0-1
8.10.89 Guatemala v United States 0-0
5.11.89 United States v El Salvador 0-0
18.11.89 Trin/Tobago v United States 0-1
19.11.89 Guatemala v El Salvador OFF
26.11.89 El Salvador v Guatemala OFF

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Costa Rica	8	5	1	2	10	6 11
United States	8	4	3	1	6	3 10
Trinidad/Tobago	8	3	3	2	7	5 9
Guatemala	6	1	1	4	4	7 3
El Salvador	6	0	2	4	2	8 2

COSTA RICA, USA qualify for finals

OCEANIA

Round 1

11.12.88 Taiwan v New Zealand 0-4
18.12.88 New Zealand v Taiwan 4-1
New Zealand 8-1 on agg
26.11.88 Fiji v Australia 1-0
3.12.88 Australia v Fiji 5-1
Australia 5-2 on agg

Round 2

5.3.89 Israel v New Zealand 1-0
12.3.89 Australia v New Zealand 4-1
19.3.89 Israel v Australia 1-1
2.4.89 New Zealand v Australia 2-0
9.4.89 New Zealand v Israel 2-2
16.4.89 Australia v Israel 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Israel	4	1	3	0	5	4 5
Australia	4	1	2	1	6	5 4
N. Zealand	4	1	1	2	5	7 3

ISRAEL qualified to play Colombia for place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

20.8.89 Bolivia v Peru 2-1
27.8.89 Peru v Uruguay 0-2
3.9.89 Bolivia v Uruguay 2-1
10.9.89 Peru v Bolivia 1-2
17.9.89 Uruguay v Bolivia 2-0
24.9.89 Uruguay v Peru 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	7	2 6
Bolivia	4	3	0	1	6	5 6
Peru	4	0	0	4	2	8 0

URUGUAY qualify for finals.

Group 2

20.8.89 Colombia v Ecuador 2-0
27.8.89 Paraquay v Colombia 2-1
3.9.89 Ecuador v Colombia 0-0
10.9.89 Paraquay v Ecuador 2-1
24.9.89 Colombia v Paraguay 2-1
1.10.89 Ecuador v Paraguay 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Colombia	4	2	1	1	4	3 5
Paraguay	4	2	0	2	5	6 4
Ecuador	4	1	1	2	3	3 3

COLOMBIA qualified to play Israel for place in finals.

Group 3

30.7.89 Venezuela v Brazil 1-3
6.8.89 Venezuela v Chile 1-3
13.8.89 Chile v Brazil 1-1
20.8.89 Brazil v Venezuela 6-0
27.8.89 Chile v Venezuela 5-0
3.9.89 Brazil v Chile 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Brazil	4	3	1	0	12	2 7
Chile	4	2	1	1	9	4 5
Venezuela	4	0	0	4	2	17 0

BRAZIL qualified for the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA/ OCEANIA

15.10.89 Colombia v Israel 1-0
30.10.89 Israel v Colombia 0-0
COLOMBIA qualify for finals.

VIVA ITALIA

WE set the Italia 90 scene with a close look at the 12 cities that will play host to the world . . .

1. GENOA (Liguria)

HISTORY:
A narrow arc of beautiful mountainous coastline stretching from France to the Tuscan border. Liguria is the smallest of the old Italian provinces. The Ligurians, the earliest inhabitants, were the renowned pirates of the ancient world. When Saracens sacked Genoa in 934, the Genoese built an independent fleet and retaliated routing the Saracens, taking Sardinia and Corsica and extending their influence to Constantinople, Syria and Crete. It was a Genoan, Christopher Colombus, who discovered America. After Napoleon's occupation, Genoa became a favourite retreat for writers and musicians. Today it is Italy's greatest seaport; a raucous city of ships, factories and refineries.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. The Carrugi: behind the port wind the steep and crooked lanes of old Genoa.
2. Via Balbi: one of Italy's finest streets, lined with palaces.
3. Cathedral San Lorenzo: a most unusual Gothic cathedral (16th century) built of black and white marble.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Portofino: the Italian St. Tropez; the most fashionable resort on the coast.

FOOD:
Among the most appetizing regional cuisine in Italy. According to the Genoese, only they can make pesto, a pasta sauce of fresh basil and garlic. Cima all Genovese is breast of veal stuffed with eggs, cheese and vegetables. Mushrooms from the hills and fish from the gulf are eaten in abundance.

TRANSPORT:
It's 790 miles from Calais to Genoa; from London the train takes 21 hours. Scheduled and charter flights to Genoa. It's often easier, faster and cheaper to fly to Nice and cross the border from there.

ANECDOTES:
The Italian Riviera. In the Middle Ages Europe's largest and most affluent city. Ironically it was a Genoese who was responsible for its decline. When Colombus discovered America, the Mediterranean became an economic backwater until the opening of the Suez canal.

Since the 16th century Liguria has been Europe's great natural greenhouse; the Riveria of Flowers. Dickens, Mark Twain, Herman Melville, Flaubert and Henry James lived in Genoa. Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Wagner found inspiration here.

In 1892 British residents started "Il Vecchio Genoa", the first Italian football club. Italians were not allowed to become members until 1897. It spread from there...

2. TURIN (Piedmont)

HISTORY:
HANNIBAL and his elephants crossed the Alps and destroyed Turin. The Romans rebuilt the city on a grid pattern. With the fall of the Empire, it was ravaged by the barbarians. In the Middle Ages, Turin followed the fortunes of the princely house of Savoy. More often than not occupied by the French, it became a centre for Italian resistance after the Napoleonic occupation. Surrounded on three sides by the Alps, the city offers a secure sense of encirclement. Turin is characterised by its wide streets, crossing at right angles, its fine buildings and its modern spirit. Outside the centre of the city is much heavy industry.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Archaded Piazza Carlos Felice: with its sumptuous old-world cafes.
2. Palazzo dell' Accademia delle Scienze: After Cairo and London, the most important Egyptian museum in the world.
3. Borgo Medievale: A bogus medieval village, built in 1884, which gives a startlingly powerful effect of being back in the Middle Ages.
4. Automobile Museum: Turin's stunning car museum.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Sacra di San Michele: 25km west of Turin, a superbly sited ancient Benedictine monastery.
2. Basilica of Superga: An imposing structure marking the breaking of the French siege in 1706 with breathtaking views of Turin and the Alps. The Victory Statue, a sixty foot female figure, is the largest cast-bronze statue in the world.

FOOD:
Italian dishes treated with French finesse: ravioli, small squares of meat filled with meat, spinach or cheese, is a regional specialty. Truffles are white, not black. The oddest Piedmontese dish is cardi in bagna canda: edible thistle dipped in a hot sauce of butter, anchovies, cream and garlic. Hazelnut-flavoured chocolates. Regional wines include Barolo, Barbaresco and Asti Spumante.

TRANSPORT:
Direct schedules flights from the UK. Train from London in 24 hours. Regular rail services between Genoa, Milan, Verona, Bologna and the south.

ANECDOTES:
Home of FIAT, Juventus and Torino, the elegance of Turin comes as a surprise to those who associate it with industry alone. The Piedmontese are renowned for their dignified, distinguished and reserved air. The Holy Shroud – the linen shroud reputably wound around Christ – is in the Cathedral. Opera at Teatro Regio. Mountain climbing; Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn are up the road. The home of Vermouth.

Italian restaurants around the world put breadsticks (grissini) on the table. They originated in Turin.

The Colosseum ... Rome.

3. MILAN (Lombardy)

HISTORY:
MILAN is a small town surrounded by a vast web of industrial and residential suburbs which, paradoxically, make it the second biggest city in Italy. It is the industrial, banking and commercial capital. Originally a Celtic settlement, under the Empire it came to rival Rome itself. In 539 the Goths murdered all the city's males. Like most of northern Italy's towns, the Middle Ages brought much internal strife and a succession of foreign invasions. Milan was occupied by the French, the Spanish, the Austrians and Russians until the city found liberty with Victor Emmanuel II in 1859.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Cathedral: Started in 1386 and not finished until 500 years later, the cathedral is constructed of white marble has 135 spires and 4000 sculptures. It is the third largest church in the world.
2. La Scala: the great opera house.
3. Castello Sforzesco: the Sforza family ruled Milan from 1450 to 1533.
4. Santa Maria delle Grazie: Leonardo's THE LAST SUPPER is in the refectory adjacent to the church.
5. Central Railway Station: a fascist triumph and monument to Mussolini's architectural dominance.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Monza Autodromo: the Italian Grand Prix circuit where, for a small fee, you can race your own car around the track. 2. Certosa di Pavia: the world's greatest – and best known – monastery.
3. Pavia: the ancient Lombard capital; da Vinci designed the dome and Renaissance interior of the Cathedral.

FOOD:
Milan is one of the best cities for food in Italy. The liberal use of butter adds the distinctly Milanese flavour: Osso buco alla milanese (veal knuckle served with rosotto), costoletta alla milanese (breaded veal cutlet) and cazzoeula (the classic Lombardy stew of pork, sausages, vegetables and polenta maize bread). The region's most renowned cheeses are Gorgonzola and Bel Paese. Panettone, the raised fluffy cake flecked with dry fruit, is its pastry specialty.

TRANSPORT:
Milan has two international airports and is the hub of the north of Italy's spider web of rail lines. Within the city is a good underground (Metropolitana Milanese).

ANECDOTES:
The Milanese are entrepreneurs: they're proud, determined and businesslike. Henry James described Milan as prosaic and winterish, as if on the wrong side of the Alps. Cafe society meets under the glass-vaulted Galleria Vittorio Emanuele (said to be inspired by the Crystal Palace). Opera and fashion houses.

In the 1890's shortly after Genoa, British businessmen introduced football to the city with the "Milan Cricket and Football Club". Today the club is still known by its English name; Milan.

4. VERONA (Veneto)

HISTORY:
FAMOUS for its Roman remains and Shakespearean associations, Verona is steeped in the past. Being at a crossroad of important traffic-routes, it flourished under the Romans. Family feuds within the city (on which ROMEO & JULIET is based) led to the establishment of a tyranny in the Middle Ages. Dante found refuge here when banished by Florence. Verona was exchanged several times between France and Austria during the 19th century. In 1866 it was united with the Italian kingdom.

ESSENTIAL SITES:
1. The Arena: one of the largest and best-preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world; used for opera and ballet in the summer.
2. Juliet's Balcony: "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?"
3. Juliet Tomb: the real one.
4. Piazza dei Signori: a 12th century square with Dante's statue.
5. Castelvecchio: bridge and castle of the Scala family.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. San Zeno Maggiore: on the outskirts of town, an exceptional Romanesque church.
2. Venice: 60 miles to the east.
3. Treviso: a delightful nearby town, heavily damaged in the last war.

FOOD:
Specialties include crepe schiaccianoci (fettuccine with mushrooms), gnocchi paste verde with gorgonzola sauce, raw ham, trout from Lake Garda and sea fish from Venice. As for wine, Souve is just down the road as are Bardolino and Valpolicella.

TRANSPORT:
Sited at the junction of two main arteries of transport (Germany/Austria to central Italy, Turin/Milan to Venice), Verona is well served by rail and road. As it has only a small airport, it is best to fly to Milan or Venice.

ANECDOTES:
Verona is a truly beautiful and colourful city with dark red bricks, white stones, white marble and deep green cypresses. Life revolves around the market square (Piazza Erbe, once the Roman Forum), the vast Piazza Bra, one of the most impressive squares ion the world, and the elegant pedestrians-only Via Mansoni. Opera in the Teatro Arena di Verona (July to September). Flower, fruit and veg. market. Shakespeare: ROMEO & JULIET, TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. Home away from home for Mozart and Wagner, Goethe and Heine. Dante was exiled to Verona.

5. UDINE (Friuli-Venezia Giulia)

HISTORY:
UDINE, set midway between the Adriatic and the Alps, stands on a mound which was – according to lore-erected by Attila the Hun so that he might watch the burning of a Roman city to the south. It is an attractive medieval hill-town stamped with Venetian culture. In the First World War it was the Italian G.H.Q.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Archbishop's Palace: Tiepolo, the great Venetian Rococo painter, decorated the Palace.
2. Castle: an impressive 16th century Venetian fortress.
3. Duomo/Cathedral: Gothic cathedral containing paintings by Tiepolo.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Palmanova: a remarkable star-shapped fortress city built by the Venetians in the 16th century.
2. Venice: canals, gondolas and St. Mark's Square.
3. Trieste: a major port and the provincial capital. It was under Austrian rule from 1382 to 1918.

FOOD:
The cooking of Friuli is simple and basic. Specialties of the region include bean soup, musetto con brovada (a boiled pork sausage with sour turnips), game, polenta (a cooked maize) and – revealing the Austrian influence – sausages and strudel. Grappa and slivovitz are found throughout the region. Seafood in Trieste is the best in the Mediterranean.

TRANSPORT:
Fly to Verona, Trieste or Venice. Trains run from Rome and Milan. The Undine line carries on north into Austria.

ANECDOTES:
The old streets, mostly arcaded, fan out around Castle Hill. The city was focal point of the rescue operation following the earthquake of 1976. The proximity fo the Alps. Health spas. The celebrated raw ham of San Danielle del Friuli. The area is littered with trenches, fortifications and monuments to the battles of the First World War.

6. BOLOGNA (Emilia-Romagna)

HISTORY:
BOLOGNA is an active industrial and business centre with a reputation for gastronomy. For its notoriously left-wing politics it has earned the nickname Bologna La Rosso. Founded by the Etruscans, taken by the Gauls, then by the Romans and sacked by the barbarians, it was involved in the 12th century factional power struggle between Guelphs and Ghibillines which tore central Italy apart. For three hundred years it was incorporated into the Papal States. In 1814 Bologna was occupied by a British force in support of the Austrians against Napoleon. In the latter stages of the Second World War, it was the focal point of German resistance.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Palazzo Comunale: local government offices since the 13th century; much rebuilt in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles.
2. The Leaning Towers: The Asinelli Tower and the Tower of the Garisenda; built by the Asinelli family in 1109.
3. The University: founded in 1088.
4. San Petronio: Begun in 1390, a superb Gothic church whose facade was never completed. Charles V was crowned Holy Roman Emperor here in 1530.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Apennine Hills: spectacular scenery.
2. Madonna di San Luca: a majestic church renowned for its panoramic view over the city.

FOOD:
The cuisine is the most famous in Italy: tagliatelle alla bolognese, tortellini and lasagna. Zampone is a boiled pig's forefoot stuffed with high-seasoned pork and Cotoletta alla bolognese is a veal cutlet topped with ham and melted cheese. Piada is the local bread. Lambrusco is a regional wine.

TRANSPORT:
Bologna has a small international airport. It is a focal point for trains and buses.

ANECDOTES:
The home of the Europe's first university (1088) and the bologney (bologna) sausage. In the 13th century the University's first woman professor had to lecture from behind a curtain to avoid distracting her male students.

Characteristic are its arcades which in the Middle Ages provided cover for the furtive assassinations and amorous assignations of, among others, Boccaccio and the Marquis de Sade. Bologna, the seat of a bishop since the third century, has contributed more prelates to the sacred college than any other city but Rome. Six of its sons have been Popes, Gregory XIII, reformer of the calender, among them. Marconi, inventor of the wireless, was born here.

7. FLORENCE (Tuscany)

HISTORY:
FLORENCE, the capital of Tuscany, is a thriving city of half a million notoriously noisy, argumentative and arrogant inhabitants. It is famous for its crafts – fashion, leather and metalwork – and the Renaissance. It is a living museum. Florence was a Roman metropolis and, in the Middle Ages, grew into an important city state. In the 15th century it was held under the sway of the powerful Medici family whose political wisdom and artistic leadership propelled Florence to the top position of Italy's Renaissance. The centre of the city has changed little since 1550.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
Florence has over 400 old palaces, 50 ancient churches, 22 museums and 5 parks. The more obvious sights include:
1. Ponte Vecchio: the 14th century covered bridge lined with goldsmiths' and silversmiths' shops. The only Florentine bridge not blown up by the Germans in 1944. Cynics say this shows German bad taste!
2. Ufffizi Museum: the world's greatest Renaissance palace, filled with paintings by nearly all the great Italian and European masters from the 13th to the 18th century.
3. Mercato Nuovo: the 16th century straw-covered market.
4. Pitti Palace: the 15th century palace which became the seat of the Medicis.
5. Cathedral: begun in 1296, the cupola is bigger than that of St. Peter's.
6. Galleria del' Accademia: works by Michelangelo including the 'David'.
7. Medici chapels: Tombs of the Medicis designed by Michelangelo.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Pisa: the leaning tower et al.
2. Fiesole: a small hill town eight km. from the heat and bustle of Florence. It was greatly favoured by Shelly and Dickens as the place to live and stay.

FOOD:
BASED heavily on Tuscan olive oil, Florentine cooking is simple fare with few spices or sauces. Meat,poultry and vegetables are the foundation of most dishes while macaroni is a favourite in soups. Minestrone is originally from the city. Triglie o baccala alla Livornese (rock mullet with tomato sauce and funghi alla Fiorentina (mushrooms) are unique to Florence. Tuscan is the home of Chianti.

TRANSPORT:
The nearest airport is Pisa, 80 km away. There's no bus and the taxi costs £50. The train takes an hour. But Florence is on the main line from Milan, Venice and Rome so the train is a better bet.

ANECDOTES:
The remarkable light which has captivated artists through the centuries. Dante's home town. A ROOM WITH A VIEW. In 1944 Allied troops, ranged along the south bank of the Arno River, furiously battled the Germans who were on the north. The Germans blew up all Florence's bridges except Ponte Vecchio.

In 1966 countless art treasures were destroyed when the Arno flooded and mud-laden water – up to fifteen feet deep – roared through the streets. A congested, polluted, intolerably hot and crowded city. God knows what it will be like when the football fans hit town.

8. BARI (Puglia)

HISTORY:
THE boot of Italy is washed by both the Adriatic and Ionian seas. Bari, once a Byzantine stronghold, has always had strong trading links with the Eastern Mediterranean. It was the main port of embarkation for the Crusades. After flourishing under Frederick II, it fell into a long period of decay. Plagues in the 17th century killed 80% of the population. It suffered heavy damage in the last war. ▶

Ponte Vecchio ... Florence.

Bari ... once a Byzantine stronghold.

VIVA ITALIA

CONTINUED

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. San Nicola: the prototype for many Apulian Romanesque cathedrals; it was founded when the relics of Saint Nicholas – Santa Clause – were brought from Asia Minor in 1087. They're still there.
2. Norman Castle: built by Frederick II in 1233 and extended by Isabella of Aragon.
3. Bari Cathedral: oriental influences.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Santa Cesarea Terme: a marvellous spa where one swims in the middle of pillars, columns and arches that look like the ruins of an ancient city. They are, in reality, the natural result of erosion.
2. The Gargano Peninsula: one of Italy's most ravishingly beautiful areas of craggy bleached limestone cliffs, pale sandy beaches, grottoes and rocky coves with crystal clear turquoise water.

FOOD:
The southern cuisine is hearty and healthy. Apulia's pasta specialties are orecchiette, troccoli and strascenate served with a broccoli and garlic sauce. Fish stew is ciambotto. Tiella di cozze, a casserole of rice, potatoes and mussels, has its roots in Spanish paella.

TRANSPORT:
As Bari remains the principal sea route to the Eastern Mediterranean, the town is well-served by both trains and buses from across Italy. Daily flights from London via Rome.

ANECDOTES:
More Greek than Italian. Bari's peculiar and baffling old town plan makes it impossible not to get lost. Saracen invaders were lured into the narrow streets and attacked from the windows above.

9. NAPLES (Campania)

HISTORY:
A city of contrasts. Founded by the Greeks in 600 B.C. In the time of the Roman Empire the city established itself as a rich and elegant cultural centre where the aristocracy spent the summer. Occupied by the Goths, Byzantines, Swabians, Normans, Spanish and Austrians, by the 17th century Naples had grown into the biggest metropolis in Europe. But plague, Garibaldi and the Second World War nullified the city's grandeur.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Capodimonte Palace: built by Charles Bourbon in 1738.
2. Palazzo Reale: the Royal Palace built in 1600.
3. Castel Nuovo: castle built by Charles of Anjou in 1280.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Capri: the jewel in the Bay of Naples renowned for its Blue Grotto and the Faraglioni Rocks.
2. Pompei and Vesuvius: the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. buried this flourishing commercial centre of 20,000 inhabitants. The only active volcano on mainland Europe, it last erupted in 1944. Stunning views of the Gulfs of Naples and Salerno from its peak.

FOOD:
Naples claims to have invented the pizza. Home of mozzarella. Neopolitan cuisine is varied but all its dishes are fundamentally simple. Seafood is its specialty especially shellfish soups, roast bass and mussels in garlic. Sfogliatelle, made of two different types of pastry, is the most famous sweet. Local wine includes Lacrima Christi (Tears of Christ).

TRANSPORT:
30 hours train from London, 3 hours from Rome. The Autostrada del Sole runs from Rome to the toe of Italy.

ANECDOTES:
The southern climax of the Grand Tour; admiring the arts were as important as staring into Vesuvius' crater. A city of contrasts. The seething street life and squalid humanity contrasting with the incomparable beauty of the Bay. Gloomy Lake Avernus is, according to Homer and Virgil, the entrance to Hell.

Always a Royal Capital: the occupying monarchs sucked all the south's resources into Naples. Under Alfonso 'The Magnanimous', the survivors of the Abruzzi earthquake were compelled to continue paying the taxes of the dead. His successor, Ferdinand I, murdered rebellious barons and kept their bodies around him, embalmed and fully dressed.

Nelson met Lady Hamilton in Naples. The city is very noisy, the traffic sheer hell. Neapolitans are renowned for their imagination: hence the reputation for inspired thieving. Watch your wallet.

10. PALERMO (Sicily)

HISTORY:
COLONIZED by the ancient Phoenicians, Romans and Cathagians, Sicily, the largest Mediterranean island, is the only part of Italy to be occupied by the Arabs. In 1072 when their 300 year reign was overthrown by the Normans, cultural and architectural styles fused into a unique Arab-Norman school. Byzantine, Islamic and western European traditions co-existed in a strangely harmonious way. 600 years of Spanish rule led to economic decline, isolating the island from much of the Renaissance. The notorious grip of the feudal 'mafiosi' was strengthened when the Allied forces used their connections to assist the invasion of the island in 1944.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Norman Palace: built in 1154, the H.Q. of Norman rule and still the seat of the Sicilian Government.
2. St. John of the Hermits: an exquisite red-domed Norman church built in 1142.
3. Cathedral: the Koran and the Bible have shared the same building. The sober grey interior is a stark contrast to the golden medieval interior.

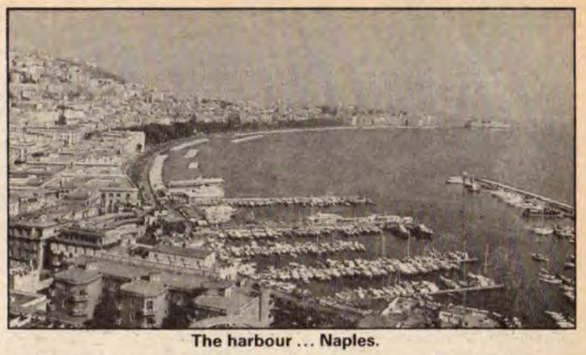
SURROUNDINGS:
1. Mount Etna: Europe's largest active volcano.
2. Aeolian Islands: a remarkably varied and beautiful archipelago of seven volcanic islands north of Sicily. Among them is Stromboli, the world's most active volcano, which erupts almost constantly.
3. Casale: a recently excavated Roman villa with exceptional mosaics.

FOOD:
Sicily has no typical meat dishes: its specialties run to vegetables, fish and cereals. Pasta con le sarde is pasta with a sauce made from fresh sardines, olive oil, anchovies, raisins, pine nuts and wild fennel. Endless variations on tuna. A favourite snack is arancini, rice croquettes with meat or cheese filling. Arab cous cous is popular. Sweets are the island's greatest claim to fame. For breakfast Sicilians prefer a brioche split down the middle and filled with ice cream.

TRANSPORT:
Charter flights to Palermo directly from London, daily schedules flights via Rome or Milan. Car ferries operate from Genoa (23 hours) or Naples (10 hours). The Rome to Palermo express train takes 12 hours. Hydrofoils across the Strait of Messina take 15 minutes.

ANECDOTES:
A land of paradox and contrasts; citrus groves beneath a snow-capped, smouldering volcano. Norman churches decorated with Byzantine mosaics. Street markets with the flavour of an Arab souk. Views of Africa across the sea.

One in ten Italians is a Sicilian. But it's no remote island idyll: purpose built slums litter the coast of Palermo. The Arab influence is everywhere: in the architecture, in the thick coffee, in the lawlessness. The streets are often the setting for Mafia feuds. "He who neither speaks, nor sees, nor hears, lives in peace for a hundred years". Palermo is reputed to be the world's most important heroin refinery.



The harbour ... Naples.

11. CAGLIARI (Sardinia)

HISTORY:
THE earliest inhabitants of Sardinia are one of pre-history's enigmas. Their origins are a mystery. As their island was beseiged by invaders – Carthaginians, Romans, Goths, Vandals and Saracens – the Sards withdrew inland into the highlands where they remain to this day. It is a wild, isolated island which no Mediterranean power thought worth colonising. Even the Second World War all but passed Sardinian by.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. Castello: the old part of town surrounding the 13th century Pisan cathedral.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. Costa Smeralda: a secret paradise of tycoons and film stars developed by the Aga Khan.
2. The Barbagia: Sardinia's most primitive district. Life has changed little since the Middle Ages.
3. Grottoes of Neptune: splendid stalactite caves near the old walled city of Alghero.

FOOD:
Inland, mutton and veal are common; wild pig roasted on a spit. On the coast one eats fish. River oysters, crayfish, mussels, prawns, lobsters, swordfish and striped bass.

TRANSPORT:
Charter flights from London or schedules flights via Rome. Overnight ferries from Genoa, Livorna and Civitavecchia. To get out of Cagliari and explore the island, a car is essential.

ANECDOTES:
Sardinia has a reputation for being the most stylish and luxurious place in the Mediterranean to do nothing. It is visited for its landscape, not its cathedrals.

In some places the dense inland bush is impenetrable; a terrain that breeds legends of brigandage and vendetta. The shepherd society is proud never to have been conquered. They have no respect for outsiders or their rules. Their rich folklore includes strange, primitive customs. Local religious festivals are accompanied by undisguised remnants of the pagan past.

A zoologists' field day: game birds, flamingoes and the mouflon, the mountain goat alleged to have had the original Golden Fleece. The Molas championship golf course is near Pula.

12. ROME (Latium)

HISTORY:
ROME wasn't built in a day but over 3000 years. Five centuries B.C. the Romans rejected their kings and formed a republic. After the city was destroyed by the Gauls, they rebuilt it and challenged Greece and Carthage on their way to winning the world. Republic and Empire spent the wealth of nations making Rome into the finest capital in the world. Their political supremacy dissolved in the Dark Ages but through the presence of the Popes it remained the centre of western Christendom.

When the papal court moved to Avignon for the 14th century, Rome withered into "the rubbish heap of history". But the wealth of the 15th century pilgrims slowly restored the crumbling medieval city. The new St. Peter's was built by Michelangelo and Raphael. After the Renaissance Italy was dominated and repressed by Spain for 150 years. When the Kingdom of Italy was achieved, the Pope held Rome protected by French troops. But in 1870 Rome regained its status as capital and began a period of extensive growth.

ESSENTIAL SIGHTS:
1. The Colosseum: massively evocative of gladiators, martyrs, beasts and 50,000 blood-thirsty spectators.
2. St. Peters and the Vatican: the Vatican City is an independent state which holds spiritual and moral power over 800 million Catholics. The original St. Peters was built in 324. Its present form, the largest church in the world, dates from the 1500s.
3. Campus Martius: old Rome; the area to the west of the Corso that stretches to the Tiber is a labyrinth of crooked lanes which have changed little since the Middle Ages.
4. Piazza di Spagna: the haunt of foreign tourists since the 16th century; the area includes the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, the house where Keats died and Italy's most exclusive shops.
5. The Forum: the remains of ancient Rome's political, religious and commercial hub.
6. The Pantheon: despite damage and the plundering of materials, it remains the best preserved building of classic times.

SURROUNDINGS:
1. E.U.R.: a district conceived by Mussolini as a monument to the glory of Rome. A strangely lifeless suburb of broad boulevards and stark white buildings.
2. Tivoli: an attractive little town with pleasant outside bars close to Villa Adriana, Emperor Hadrian's villa.

FOOD:
Queen of Roman pastas is fettuccine, egg noodles topped with a rich tomato and meat sauce. Gnocchi, a Roman favourite on Thursdays, are tiny dumplings of semolina and potato. Authentic Roman cuisine is based on local ingredients, for example milk-fed lamb and glove artichokes. Crotala di ricotta is a velvety cheesecake. Frascati grows just down the road.

TRANSPORT:
Daily schedules flights from the UK to Fiumicino/Leonardo da Vinci (30 km from the centre of Rome) or charter flights to Capmpino (18 km from the centre). The train from London takes 24 hours.

ANECDOTES:
Romulus and Remus, twins born of gods and raised by a she-wolf found Rome. Until the mid 19th century, the Colosseum was used regularly as a quarry. The catacombs under the streets.

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ITALIA'90

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

June 9 (Rome: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Italy v Austria

June 10 (Florence: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
USA v Czechoslovakia

June 14 (Rome: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Italy v USA

June 15 (Florence: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Austria v Czech

June 19 (Rome: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Italy v Czech

June 19 (Florence: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Austria v USA

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

GROUP B

June 8 (Milan: 18.00 local, 5pm BST)
Argentina v Cameroon

June 9 (Bari: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Soviet U. v Rumania

June 13 (Naples: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Argentina v Soviet U.

June 14 (Bari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Cameroon v Rumania

June 18 (Naples: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Argentina v Rumania

June 18 (Bari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Cameroon v Soviet U.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

GROUP C

June 10 (Turin: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Brazil v Sweden

June 11 (Genoa: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Costa Rica v Scotland

June 16 (Turin: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Brazil v Costa Rica

June 16 (Genoa: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Sweden v Scotland

June 20 (Turin: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Brazil v Scotland

June 20 (Genoa: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Sweden v Costa Rica

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

GROUP D

June 9 (Bologna: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
UAE v Colombia

June 10 (Milan: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
W.Germany v Y'slavia

June 14 (Bologna: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Yugoslavia v Colombia

June 15 (Milan: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
West Germany v UAE

June 19 (Milan: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
W.Germany v Colombia

June 19 (Bologna: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Yugoslavia v UAE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

GROUP E

June 12 (Verona: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Belgium v S.Korea

June 13 (Udine: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Uruguay v Spain

June 17 (Verona: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Belgium v Uruguay

June 17 (Udine: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
S.Korea v Spain

June 21 (Verona: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Belgium v Spain

June 21 (Udine: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
South Korea v Uruguay

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

GROUP F

June 11 (Cagliari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
England v Rep Ireland

June 12 (Palermo: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Holland v Egypt

June 16 (Cagliari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
England v Holland

June 17 (Palermo: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
Rep Ireland v Egypt

June 21 (Cagliari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
England v Egypt

June 21 (Palermo: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
Rep Ireland v Holland

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

SECOND ROUND

The eight knock-out matches involve the top two teams from each group plus the four third-placed teams with the best records (chosen on points gained, then on goal difference and then by lots).

June 23 (Naples: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
B1 ..... ( ) v ( ) A3/C3/D3

June 23 (Bari: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
A2 ..... ( ) v ( ) C2

June 24 (Turin: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
C1 ..... ( ) v ( ) A3/B3/F3

June 24 (Milan: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
D1 ..... ( ) v ( ) B3/E3/F3

June 25 (Rome: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
A1 ..... ( ) v ( ) C3/D3/E3

June 25 (Genoa: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
F2 ..... ( ) v ( ) B2

June 26 (Bologna: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
F1 ..... ( ) v ( ) E2

June 26 (Verona: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
E1 ..... ( ) v ( ) D2

QUARTER FINALS

June 30 (Rome: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
W/Genoa ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Rome

June 30 (Florence: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
W/Turin ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Verona

July 1 (Naples: 21.00 local, 8pm BST)
W/Naples ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Bologna

July 1 (Milan: 17.00 local, 4pm BST)
W/Bari ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Milan

SEMI FINALS

July 3 (Naples: 20.00 local, 7pm BST)
W Florence ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Rome

July 4 (Turin: 20.00 local, 7pm BST)
W/Milan ..... ( ) v ( ) ..... W/Naples

Discussions will be held between ITV and BBC about coverage of the later stages of the competition.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

July 7 (Bari: 20.00 local, 7pm BST)
..... ( ) v ( ) .....

THE FINAL

July 8 (Rome: 20.00 local, 7pm BST)
..... ( ) v ( ) .....

HONOURS LIST

Cup winners: .....

Runners-up : .....

Third : .....

Fourth : .....

Golden Ball (top player): .....

Top scorer (.... goals): .....

BBC TV WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Friday 8 June BBC1 – 10.20pm Preview/highlights

Saturday 9 June BBC1 – 4pm World Cup Grandstand
BBC1 – 10.50pm Highlights

Sunday 10 June BBC1 – 7.45pm Brazil v Sweden

Monday 11 June BBC1 – 11pm Highlights

Tuesday 12 June BBC2 – 7.45pm Holland v Egypt

Wednesday 13 June BBC2 – 3.45pm Uruguay v Spain
BBC1 – 11pm Highlights

Thursday 14 June BBC1 – 8.45pm World Cup Report
BBC1 – 10pm Highlights

Friday 15 June BBC2 – 3.45pm Austria v Czechoslovakia
BBC1 – 11.10pm Highlights

Saturday 16 June BBC1 – 7.35pm England v Holland/Sweden
v Scotland

Sunday 17 June BBC1 – 10.15pm Highlights

Monday 18 June BBC2 – 7.45pm Argentina v Rumania
Cameroon v Soviet Union

Tuesday 19 June BBC2 – 4.30pm W Germany v Colombia
Yugoslavia v UAE
BBC1 – 11pm Highlights

Wednesday 20 June BBC1 – 11pm Highlights

Thursday 21 June BBC1 – 7.30pm England v Egypt
Rep Ireland v Holland

Monday 11 June 4pm Costa Rica v Scotland
8pm England v Ireland

Tuesday 12 June 4pm Belgium v South Korea

Wednesday 13 June 8pm Argentina v Sov.Union

Thursday 14 June 4pm Yugoslavia v Colombia

Friday 15 June 8pm W Germany v UAE

Saturday 16 June 4pm Brazil v Costa Rica

Sunday 17 June 4pm Rep.Ireland v Egypt

Tuesday 19 June 8pm Italy v Czechoslovakia
Austria v USA

Wednesday 20 June 8pm Brazil v Scotland
Sweden v Costa Rica

Thursday 21 June 4pm Belgium v Spain
South Korea v Uruguay

ITV

Friday 8 June Approx 4pm Opening Ceremony
5pm Argentina v Cameroon

Saturday 9 June 8pm Italy v Austria
UAE v Colombia

Sunday 10 June 4pm USA v Czechoslovakia

Friday 8 June mid pm Opening ceremony: Live
Argentina v Cameroon: Live

9pm Argentina v Cameroon: Rpt

Saturday 9 June 10.30am Argentina v Cameroon: Rpt

4pm United Arab Emirates v Colombia: Live

Sov.Union v Rumania
Italy v Austria: Live

12.20am Eurosport overnight: Repeat of the day's matches

Sunday 10 June 10.00am Repeat of yesterday's matches

4pm US v Czechoslovakia:Live

11.30 Eurosport overnight: Repeat of the USA match PLUS:
West Germany v Yugoslavia
Brazil v Sweden

Monday 11 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Costa Rica v Scotland: Live

8.00 Costa Rice v Scotland: Rpt

10.00pm England v Ireland: Rpt

Tuesday 12 June 4.00pm Belgium v S.Korea: Live

8.00 Belgium v S.Korea

10.00 Holland v Egypt

Wednesday 13 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Uruguay v Spain: Live

8.00 Argentina v Sov.Union: Live

WHEN TO WATCH ON EUROSPORT

10.00 Uruguay v Spain: Rpt
Thursday 14 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Yugoslavia v Colombia: Live
8.00 Italy v US: Live

10.00 Rumania v Cameroon
midnight Yugoslavia v Colombia: Rpt
Friday 15 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Austria v Czechoslovakia: Live
8.00 Austria v Czechoslovakia: Rpt

10.00 United Arab Emirates v West Germany
midnight Eurosport overnight: Repeat of AUS/Czech and UAE/WG
Saturday 16 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Brazil v Costa Rica: Live
8.00 Sweden v Scotland: Live

10.00 England v Holland
midnight Eurosport overnight: Repeat of the above matches
Sunday 17 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Rep.Ireland v Egypt: Live
8.00 S.Korea v Spain: Live

10.00 Belgium v Uruguay
midnight Eurosport overnight: Repeat of the above matches
Monday 18 June 8.30am Eurosport highlights

8.00pm Argentina v Rumania: Live
10.00 Cameroon v Sov. Union
Tuesday 19 June 8.30am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Yugoslavia v United Arab Emirates:Live

6.00 West Germany v Colombia
8.00 Austria v US: Live

10.00 Italy v Czechoslovakia
midnight Yugoslavia v United Arab Emirates:Rpt
Wednesday 20 June 8.30am Eurosport highlights

8.00pm Brazil v Scotland: Live
10.00 Sweden v Costa Rica
Thursday 21 June 8.30am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Belgium v Spain: Live
6.00 S. Korea v Uruguay
8.00 England v Egypt: Live

10.00 Rep. Ireland v Holland
midnight Repeat of Belg/Spain and S.Korea Holland/Uruguay
Friday 22 June 8.30am Eurosport highlights
Saturday 23 June 4.00pm Second Round: Live

8.00 Second Round: Live
10.30 Second Round: Rpt

1.30am Second Round: Rpt
Sunday 24 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00am Second Round: Live
10.00 Second Round
midnight Second Round: Rpt
Monday 25 June 10.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Second Round: Live
8.00 Second Round: Live

10.00 Second Round: Rpt
midnight Second Round: Rpt

Tuesday 26 June 11.00am Eurosport highlights

4.00pm Second Round: Live
8.00 Second Round: Live

10.00 Second Round: Rpt
midnight Second Round: Rpt

Wednesday 27 June 11.00am Eurosport highlights

10.00pm 'The Story So Far...'
Thursday 28 June 11.00am Golden Games

Friday 28 June 11.00pm Quarter-Final Preview
Saturday 30 June 10.00am Golden Games

5.30pm Quarter-Final
8.00 Quarter-Final

10.00 Quarter-Final
midnight Quarter-Final

Sunday 1 July 10.00am Repeat of yesterday's Quarter-final games

6.00pm Quarter-Final
8.00 Quarter-Final: Live

10.00 Quarter-Final: Rpt
midnight Quarter-Final: Rpt

Monday 2 July 10.00am Repeat of last night's Quarter-final games

Tuesday 3 July 9.00pm Semi-Final
Wednesday 4 July 9.00pm Semi-Final

Saturday 7 July 6.00pm Eurosport Preview
7.00 Third Place: Live

10.00 Repeat of above
Sunday 8 July 6.00pm Eurosport Preview

7.00 The Final: Live
10.00 Repeat of THE FINAL

BSB say they will be covering the World Cup in "news format" only. Screensport have no match coverage arranged.

EUROPEAN CUP

Why Van Basten must keep on running

SPECIAL REPORT FROM KEIR RADNEDGE IN VIENNA

MARCO Van Basten sat over the microphone in the Champions' Cup Final conference room. He seemed much less at home than he had out in the warm evening of the Prater stadium.

In front of 57,500 impeccably-behaved supporters from Milan and Lisbon, Van Basten had just demonstrated why he is considered a front-runner to usurp Diego Maradona's crown of World No 1...and why Holland could be deposing Argentina.

Last year Van Basten scored twice in the 4-0 thrashing of Steaua Bucharest. But Milan almost prefer not to think about that. For these ultimate professionals that was almost too easy. Anyway, for all professionals the only game which matters is the next one. Or, in Van Basten's case, the next Cup.

Smile

"All our troubles are over," he said with a sudden smile which indicated that this line of questioning should be considered closed.

But World Cup and Champions' Cup are inextricably linked. Questioners kept comng back to that theme. It was not enough that Van Basten's class had helped kill off a Benfica team which was a vast improvement on the depressive side beaten at this same stage two years ago.

Van Basten could not be allowed to celebrate in peace. The next target had to be laid in his way. Whom did he consider World Cup favourites? Brazil, Italy and West Germany.

What about England? They're very strong, just like Holland, Yugoslavia.

What about Gullit? Given two or three weeks' hard work he would be ready.

Oddly enough Gullit's return had disorientated Milan. Van Basten had no qualms about owning up – "It was not so easy to start playing alongside Gullit again. We have had to change things. Maybe it wasn't easy for him too."

Gullit had two chances to mark his return to senior competitive action with a goal. The first time, in the first half, goalkeeper Silvino spread himself well to save. The second time, late in the game, Gullit blazed high over the top.

Those two incidents and the goal account reveal this game for what it was: more chess than soccer. But among the puppets were a handful of individuals whose quality shone through the night.] On the Benfica side Aldair was a rock in central defence, although he did collect a yellow card; Jonas Thern was a superb snapper-up of loose passes; Valdo, the Brazilian, by far their top individual. He was skilful and quick on the ball; he was not afraid to run the ball; all in all his display provided conclusive evidence about why several Italians clubs are chasing him.

Not even being the subject of some rough handling early on by Costacurta and Ancelotti could dampen his ambition. The queue of would-be purchasers must have grown by the time Helmuth Kohl blew his final whistle.

Mats Magnusson, up front, was the weak link. His prolific scoring in the Portuguese league means nothing at the highest level. Magnusson may look powerful and strong in Portugal, but in Vienna he looked clumsy and short of ideas. A couple of penalty box collapses were not worthy of him, either. Referee Kohl refused to be impressed.

Controller

Among Milan's pedigree names Frank Rijkaard was a tower of strength in midfield, Franco Baresi an all-pervading controller from sweeper, and Carlo Ancelotti a tireless pair of legs and lungs.

And then there was Van Basten. Being foiled once but setting up the winning goal for revenge.

It's rare for Van Basten not to score in a final. Holland's fans will forgive him, of course, if he scores the winner on July 8 in Rome. Italian fans may not be as happy at such a prospect. But on the evidence of the Prater they would respect it.

Van Basten, right now, is on top of the world. But to stay there and to remain a force, he must keep on running. International football at this level is a very particular treadmill.

Ruud Gullit lifts the trophy after completing his first full game since last season's European Cup success.

Milan are kings of Europe – but that's not enough for Flying Dutchman

THE WINNER. Frank Rijkaard fires in Milan's goal.

Milan president Silvio Berlusconi joins the celebrations.

An embracing time for Gullit and 'keeper Giovanni Galli.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL
Prater Stadion, Vienna – May 23

Milan 1 (Frank Rijkaard 68)
Benfica 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 57,500. Ref: Kohl (Aus)
Milan: G Galli – Tassotti, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini – Colombo (F Galli 89), Rijkaard, Ancelotti (Massaro 72), Evani – Gullit, Van Basten. Subs not used: Pazzagli, Simone, Borgorovo.
Benfica: Silvino – Jose Carlos, Aldair, Ricardo, Samuel – Vitor Paneira (Vata Garcia 76), Valdo, Thern, Hernani – Magnusson, Pacheco (Cesar Brito 66). Subs not used: Bento, Paulo Mendes, Diamantino.

Leading scorers: 6 goals – Papin (Marseille), Romario (PSV). 5 – Magnusson, Vata Garcia (Benfica), Pacult (Tirol).

Previous winners: 1956-1960 Real Madrid. 1961-62 Benfica. 1963 Milan. 1964-65 Inter. 1966 Real Madrid. 1967 Celtic. 1968 Manchester United. 1969 Milan. 1970 Feyenoord. 1971-73 Ajax. 1974-76 Bayern Munich. 1977-78 Liverpool. 1979-80 Nottingham Forest. 1981 Liverpool. 1982 Aston Villa. 1983 Hamburg. 1984 Liverpool. 1985 Juventus. 1986 Steaua Bucharest. 1987 FC Porto. 1988 PSV Eindhoven. 1989 Milan.

The run of play

0 – Milan kick off.
2 – Milan force the first corner but Ancelotti's header flies high over the bar.
11 – Ancelotti trips Valdo in midfield and is warned by the referee that next time it's a yellow card.
22 – A first dash of the real Milan. But a sweeping move involving Rijkaard, Van Basten and Evani comes to nothing as Gullit just fails to stop the ball twisting over the goalline.
31 – Valdo turns Milan's defence inside out and wins a corner on the right. Milan half-clear it, Thern sets Hernani clear on the left and his cross shot is luckily deflectd wide for a corner on the left by Costacurta.
39 – The most dangerous move so far. Gullit finds space, sends Tassotti clear on the right and Van Basten escapes his marker, closes on goal but sees Silvino guess his angle with a diving save to his left.
40 – Aldair becomes the first player yellow carded for a trip on Evani.
Half-time: Milan 0, Benfica 0
49 – Another chance for Milan. Ricardo mistimes a defensive header, Van Basten puts Gullit clear but he fails to strike the ball cleanly with only the goalkeeper to beat and Silvino again manages a diving dave.
60 – Benfica bring on Cesar Brito for a disappointed Pacheco.
61 – Aldair trips Ancelotti but an over-elaborate free kick routine ends with Rijkaard shooting tamely wide.
62 – Benfica break through the middle. A 25-yard drive from Valdo is too quick for the diving Galli but scrapes just wide of his right-hand post.
64 – Ricardo is shown the yellow card for trying a kick the ball while Gullit's head was in the way. Evani's free kick scutters safely wide.
62 – The decisive break. In a handful of passes the ball flows through Galli to Costacurta up to Van Basten and on through the middle for RIJKAARD striding clear to shoot deftly wide of Silvino. 1-0 to Milan.
72 – Milan bring on Massaro for Ancelotti.
76 – Benfica bring on their second substitute, striker Vata Garcia replacing midfielder Vitor Paneira.
78 – Gullit wastes another chance, this time blazing the ball high over the bar on the run.
80 – Jose Carlos nearly catches Galli napping with an angled near-post shot from far out on the right hand side of the field. The goalkeeper hurries to his left to catch the ball.
89 – Filippo Galli substitutes for Colombo.
Full-time: Milan 1, Benfica 0.

What they said ...

ARRIGO SACCHI (Milan coach): "It may not have looked like our best game of the year but I can assure it was our hardest. It was the game which got to me on the bench more than any other – even the Verona defeat in the league. From the technical point of view it was not very spectacular, but we were playing exceptionally strong opponents who had players of great skill and cunning. Because of that, in the end, I considered our victory here in Vienna as more satisfying than our victory over Steaua Bucharest last year in Barcelona. This time we had to work much harder, we had to earn victory the hard way. It was good to have Gullit back in the team. He is very important to us both as a player and as an influence within the squad. He is not quite fully match-fit yet but that will come. He had been out for a long time. Should he play the World Cup? All I can say is that I think he will play in the World Cup and that he will be one of the best players."

SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON (Benfica coach): "We had talked before the game, and again at half-time, about the fact that one mistake could decide the game – and that is what happened. We were so busy trying to play Gullit and Van Basten offside that Rijkaard came through on his own. Milan are a very good team but I think we did a good job. If I have any regrets it is that we did not attack enough in the first half. That left Magnusson will a very difficult job without any support."

CUP-WINNERS' CUP REPORT

Vialli serves up two-goal taster

BY NICK TOWNSEND
of the Daily Mail

IT MAY have been the prospect of a sumptuous main course awaiting us in Vienna. Perhaps it was the tantalising feast to be savoured in Italy.

Yet, it was undeniable that this year's Cup-winners' Cup Final was served – and received – like an unwelcome and unappetising hors d'oeuvre.

True, Italian international Gianluca Vialli gave us a taste of what he promises to deliver even more devastatingly in the World Cup finals – his supreme predatory instincts inflicting the two extra time goals which secured Sampdoria's first European trophy in their 44-year history – and provided ample compensation for the disappointment of defeat by Barcelona in last year's Final.

Yet even the most ardent of their followers – who had the powerful scent of an Italian treble in European competition in their nostrils, and particularly those of their Belgian victims – would accept that what preceded was squalid fare to place before a 20,103 crowd and a television audience of millions.

But maybe my judgement is too easily coloured by the nostalgia of an emotion night in Athens 19 years ago.

What memories...of first half goals from Peter Osgood and John Dempsey securing victory for my team, Chelsea, in a nerve-racking Cup-winners' Cup replay with Real Madrid.

Not that I was there. But even a poor quality television picture – black and white and only the second half, if I remember rightly – was enough to convince me that this was a quite momentous occasion.

Perhaps that explains the folly of the British perception. While we dwell on, eulogise over and subsequently hark back to such glories, our Continental counterparts increasingly regard such achievements with indifference, if not quite derision. The only authentic article, in their view, is the European Champions' Cup.

Sampdoria land first European crown

Pietro Vierchowod goes close against Anderlecht.

Certainly, as I approached the magnificently appointed Ullevi stadium, which will stage many of the European Championships matches in two year's time, there was scant evidence that this was an auspicious night in the calendar of European competition.

So restrained was the atmosphere in this city of calm and culture – only occasionally breached by the distant chorus of 8,000 Italian throats – it might have been Torvill and Dean who were the big-name attraction.

How significant that, while over 150 journalists were refused access to the European Cup Final because of lack of media accommodation, here I was surrounded by vacant seats. And the seeming indifference of all but the most committed Italian followers was reflected by the displays of both sides.

Not that either lacked the style or technique to embarrass all but England's most accomplished sides. What was absent until latter stages of extra time was the passion and endeavour which is so familiar to British eyes – and the ability to convert the frustratingly rare opportunity that presented itself.

Vialli's international striking partner Roberto Mancini was the most culpable of the Italians. Yugoslav international Srecko Katanec sent him clear in the early minutes but he shot wide and, before half-time, a woefully underhit backpass by defender Georges Grun presented an open goal, only for Willem Kooiman to clear off the line.

But Mancini at least fashioned Sampdoria's only notable second half chance. His intelligent backheel gave midfielder Fausto Pari a clear run at goal but he was thwarted by the excellent Belgian international goalkeeper De Wilde.

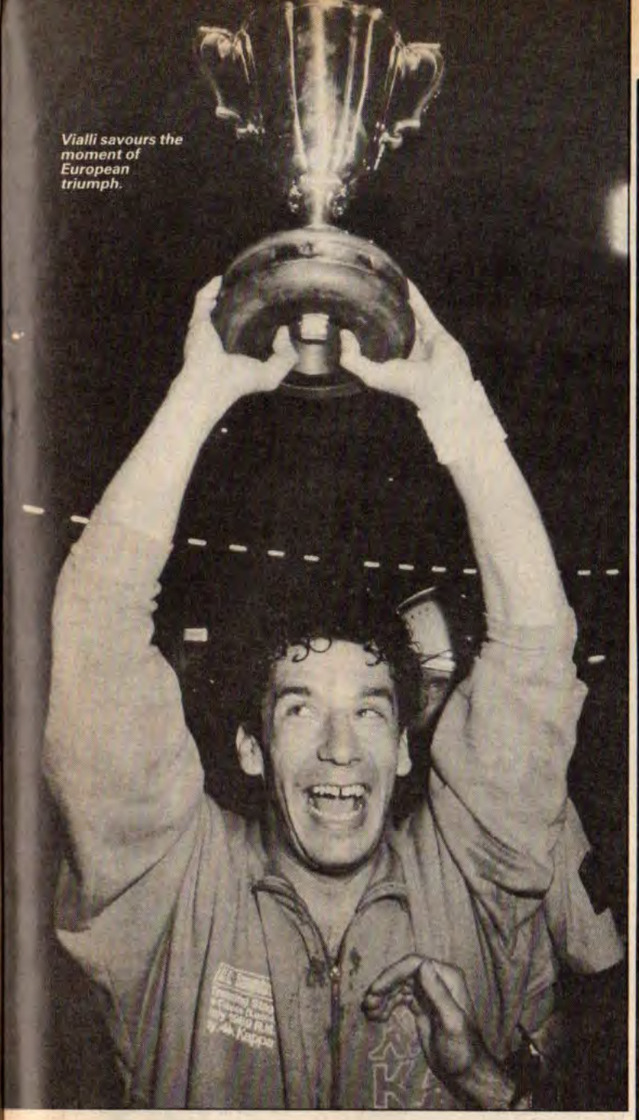
For all their studious build-ups the Belgians failed to stir Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca into action with anything but optimistic long-range attempts.

With a penalty shoot-out beckoning Vialli thankfully reaped the reward for his own persistence, and his side's marginal superiority, with two goals either side of half-time of extra time.

He converted his first, nimble feet and brain enabling him to win the race with De Wilde after substitute Attilio Lombardo had struck a post with a venomous drive.

But it was the second, two minutes later, which only served to accentuate what had been missing for the previous 107 minutes. It was Mancini, inevitably, who sped down the flank before delivering a fierce cross for Vialli to head unerringly past the stricken goalkeeper.

The Italian hit-man strikes to give Sampdoria the lead in extra-time.


Vialli savours the moment of European triumph.

For two or three minutes, as a group of baton-wielding police poured into the section housing Anderlecht supporters and police dogs on the perimeter strained on their leashes, there were fears that a night of harmony might yet hit a note of discord.

Thankfully, it proved a minor disturbance and was quelled at origin, as attention quickly transferred to the opposite end where Vialli's disciples were in raptures, red flares were ignited and the Cup was in the hands of a club which came into being only 14 years before the birth of the competition.

It was presented, on his home territory, by newly-elected UEFA President Lennart Johansson, who had earlier in the day revealed his desire for English clubs – including Liverpool – to return to the fold.

English clubs need European football as much as European football needs English clubs, he told a press conference of principally Swedish, Italian and Belgian journalists. I think English clubs have suffered enough.

It was a view that many of my foreign colleagues shared, particularly in the aftermath of violent incidents in Holland, Belgium and Germany the same preceding weekend in which events at Bournemouth when drunken hooligans calling themselves Leeds United supporters, placed renewed question marks over English readmission.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9
Gothenburg – Cup-winners' Cup Final
Sampdoria 2 (Gianluca Vialli 105, 107)
Anderlecht 0
HT: 0-0. 90 min: 0-0. Att: 20,103. Ref: Galler (Swz)
Sampdoria: Pagliuca – Pellegrini Mannini, Vierchowod, Carboni – Pari, Katanec (Salsano 93), Invernizzi (Lombardo 53), Dossena – Vialli, Mancini.
Anderlecht: De Wilde – Grun, Marchoul, Keshi, Kooiman – Vervoort, Musonda, Gudjohnsen, Jankovic (Oliveira 112) – Degryse (Nilis 103), Van der Linden.

Top scorer: 7 – Vialli (Sampdoria). 4 – Mateut, Raducioiu (Dinamo Bucharest). Degryse, Nilis, Van der Linden (Anderlecht), Djurovski (Partizan), Dziekanowski (Celtic).
Past winners: 1961 Fiorentina. 1962 at Madrid. 1963 Tottenham. 1964 Sporting Lisbon. 1965 West Ham. 1966 Borussia Dortmund. 1967 Bayern Munich. 1968 Milan. 1969 Slovan Bratislava. 1970 Manchester City. 1971 Chelsea. 1972 Rangers. 1973 Milan. 1974 Magdeburg. 1975 Kiev Dynamo. 1976 Anderlecht. 1977 Hamburg. 1978 Anderlecht. 1979 Barcelona. 1980 Valencia. 1981 Tbilisi Dynamo. 1982 Barcelona. 1983 Aberdeen. 1984 Juventus. 1985 Everton. 1986 Kiev Dynamo. 1987 Ajax Amsterdam. 1988 Mechelen. 1989 Barcelona.

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1978 Ipswich v Arsenal
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1980 West Ham United v Arsenal
1981 Tottenham v Manchester City
1983 Manchester United v Brighton
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SVF172 Liverpool 89/90 Football League Highlights
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SVF174 Arsenal 89/90 Football League Highlights
SVF175 Derby County 89/90 Football League Highlights
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UEFA CUP REPORT

ZOFF AND CO GO OUT AS WINNERS

BY RINO LANDA

JUVENTUS crowned their season with two cups – adding the UEFA Cup to the Italian knock-out prize they had already surprisingly collected by defeating Milan.

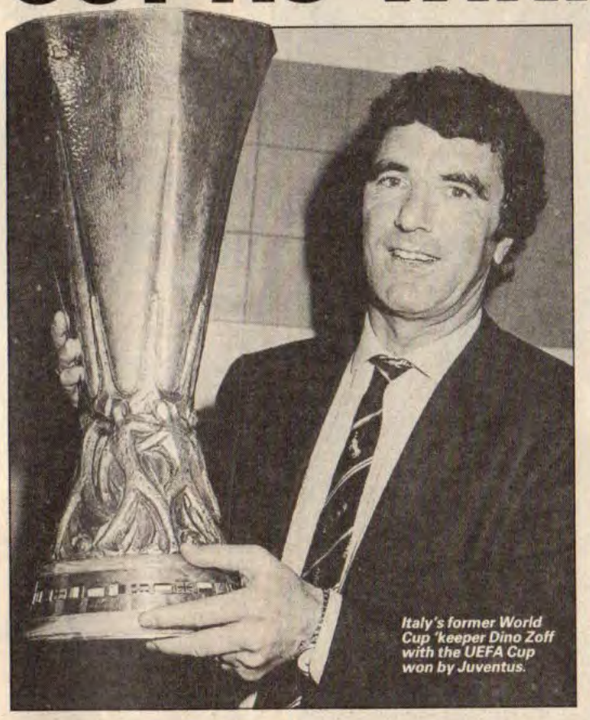
Neither success will prevent major changes at the Zebras, with the impending arrivals of new stars including Roberto Baggio and a new coach in Gigi Maifredi.

His predecessor, Dino Zoff, has – on the quiet – left Maifredi an awful lot to live up to. Zoff's contract has not been renewed after two years in charge at his old club and he is off to Lazio. But he went with certain satisfaction.

When their backs were against the wall, Juve's defence was as watertight as you might expect from a unit put together by a former star goalkeeper. In six away matches in the UEFA Cup Juve conceded not one goal. That is a record no other Italian club can boast. Another record was in playing a club record 54 games in the season – 34 in the championship, 12 in Europe and eight in the Italian club.

As Zoff said: "Leaving now, after coming through to achieve all this, is rather a cruel destiny. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank the players. A bitter victory? I don't think so. It's always good to win."

The first leg was something of a messy affair. Juventus were favourites and although they pulled away in the second half there was too much scuffling both among players and fans for anyone to be satisfied with their night's work.



Italy's former World Cup 'keeper Dino Zoff with the UEFA Cup won by Juventus.

Explosive

This was Juve's last match in the old Stadio Comunale – a new stadium has been built for the World Cup – and they made an explosive start with a second-minute goal courtesy of Toto Schillaci. Fiorentina squared it through Renato Buso – on loan from Juve – as he headed home a Di Chiara cross.

Throughout the two legs of the final Di Chiara would be Fiorentina's most dangerous forward. But he lacked the support necessary to make the most of his pace and the Juve defence's ponderous covering. Instead it was Juventus who scored next almost on the hour through Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Fiorentina no doubt missed the injured Argentine, Oscar Dertycia, to take the game to Juventus in midfield. Accordingly they were pressed back and an awful misjudgment by keeper Marco Landucci allowed a bouncing shot from Luigi De Agostini to fly past him into the net.

Fiorentina had conceded only three goals previously in the competition. Now they leaked three goals all on one night and, when they did attack, superstar Roberto Baggio was badly off target in the 32nd minute, breaking clear on a solo run but shooting weakly into Tacconi's arms.

The second leg was equally inconsistent from a football point of view. This match did not even have the compensatory virtue of goals – not even once Juve had been reduced to ten men by the expulsion of Pasquale Bruno in the 59th minute for a second yellow-card offence.

Baggio and Lubos Kubik began to exhibit their talents not only in midfield but nearer to goal. But for much of the time Juve's Soviet star Sergei Aleinikov commanded the rearguard campaign while keeper Tacconi made several excellent saves and Czechoslovak World Cup star Lubos Kubik hit a post.

That was the closest Fiorentina came to another goal.

Failing to win the UEFA Cup, and finishing just above the league relegation zone, means Fiorentina will be appearing in European competition next season. On their form against Juventus, they will not be missed.

As for Juventus, entering the Cup-winners' Cup with a vastly-altered team could spell danger with a bad draw early in the season when Juventus are always at their lowest ebb.

This past season the fans were patient and their patience was ultimately rewarded. But Juve, for all their huge spending, must break back into the league championship race. Their last league title was in 1986. Four years is an awfully long time for an Italian club to miss out on this major prize.

Thus it's ironic, that Juventus – already confirmed as participants in the Cup-winners' Cup – will not be able to defend the UEFA Cup next season. They have more lucrative championship fish to fry ...

Renato Buso (dark shirt) on loan from Juventus, scored against them for Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup Final first-leg.

May 2 – Turin: Final, first leg
Juventus 3 (Robert Galia 3, Pier Luigi Casiraghi 59, Luigi De Agostini 73)
Fiorentina 1 (Renato Buso 10)
HT: 1-1. Att: 45,000. Ref: Soriano Aladren (Spain)
Juventus: Tacconi – Napoli, De Agostini, Galia, Brio (Alessio 46), Bonetti, Aleinikov, Rui Barros, Casiraghi, Marocchi, Schillaci.
Fiorentina: Landucci – Dell 'Oglio, Volpecina, Dunga, Pin, Battistini, Nappi, Kubik (Malusci 87), Buso, Baggio, Di Chiara.

May 16 – Avellino: Final, second leg
Fiorentina 0
Juventus 0
Att 32,000. Ref: Schmidhuber (WG)
Juventus 3-1 on agg
Fiorentina: Landucci – Dell 'Oglio, Volpecina, Dunga, Pin, Battistini, Nappi (Zironelli 71), Kubik, Baggio, Di Chiara.
Juventus: Tacconi – Napoli, De Agostini, Galia, *Bruno, Alessio, Aleinikov, Rui Barros (Avallone 72), Casiraghi (Rosa 79), Marocchi, Schillaci.
*Bruno, sent off 59 min.
Top scorers: 6 – Gotz (Koln), Riedle (Werder Bremen). 5 – Scifo (Auxerre).
Past winners: Fairs Cup – 1958 Barcelona. 1960 Barcelona. 1961 Roma. 1962 Valencia. 1963 Valencia. 1964 Zaragoza. 1965 Ferencvaros. 1966 Barcelona. 1967 Dinamo Zagreb. 1968 Leeds. 1969 Newcastle. 1970 Arsenal. 1971 Leeds. UEFA Cup – 1972 Tottenham. 1973 Liverpool. 1974 Feyenoord. 1975 Borussia Moenchengladbach. 1976 Liverpool. 1977 Juventus. 1978 PSV Eindhoven. 1979 Borussia Moenchengladbach. 1980 Eintracht Frankfurt. 1981 Ipswich. 1982 IFK Gothenburg. 1983 Anderlecht. 1984 Tottenham. 1985 Real Madrid. 1986 Real Madrid. 1987 IFK Gothenburg. 1988 Bayer Leverkusen. 1989 Napoli.

Juve pay World record £8.7M for Baggio

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

FIORENTINA laid the blame firmly at the door of the World Cup to try to placate furious fans after selling superstar Robert Baggio to Juventus.

The fee was a world record-shattering £8.7 million (16 billion lire or $12.8 million dollars) and a deal had clearly been in the offing for a month – ever since an Italian sports magazine ran a front cover portrait of Baggio wearing a Juventus shirt.

The fee was £3 million more than the previous record transfer when PSV Eindhoven sold Ruud Gullit to Milan in the summer of 1987. Before that Diego Maradona cost Napoli £5 million from Barcelona in 1986.

Baggio signed a three-year contract which guarantees a 'basic' £840,000 a year of £16,153-a-week. The formal announcement came just two days after Juve had beaten Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup Final and further demonstrated the awesome financial power of the Turin club and their owners, the Agnelli family.

Pierluigi Casiraghi of Juventus leaps over Fiorentina's Carlos Dunga in the UEFA Cup Final second-leg that ended 0-0.

Roberto Baggio – controversial move.

Only a month earlier Juve had followed up their UEFA Cup semi-final defeat of Koln by concluding the £5.5 million signing of the West Germany club's World Cup midfielder, Thomas Hassler.

A week before the Baggio deal Juventus had beaten Real Madrid to the punch and arranged to buy Julio Cesar, outstanding in the centre of Brazil's 1986 World Cup defence in Mexico, from Montpellier. Julio Cesar has been languishing almost out of sight in the middle reaches of the French league. But French observers still consider him one of the very best exponents in the game today and their judgement is supported by the Turin/Madrid competition for his signature.

Julio Cesar decided in favour of Juventus, then said: "I could have earned lots more money in Spain but I have always wanted to play in Italy."

So Juventus, UEFA Cup winners, will start next season with a hugely changed line-up. The Soviet midfielders Sasha Zavarov and Sergei Aleinikov will be on their way; Gianni Agnelli got his way in signing them but now they are, overnight, surplus to requirements. They were a novelty; now they are nuisance.

The Portuguese forward, Rui Barros, an unpopular signing but now something of a favourite with the fans, is also on his way out. Maybe even back to Portugal with Benfica who will have several gaps to plug if the promised Italians raids on the likes of Valdo, Aldair and Co are followed through.

But Baggio's deal puts all the rest in the shade – especially considering he is not certain of a place in Italy's World Cup starting line-up.

Baggio himself was placed in an unenviable position. At Florence he had associated himself so closely with the fans that many thought he would be another Giancarlo Antognoni – maintaining a career loyalty to the club whatever the blandishments from Milan, Turin, Rome etc.

When rumours spread through Florence this spring that the owning Pontello family were considering selling Baggio, fans boycotted matches in protest. They stood in protest outside the ground while their hero was playing inside.

At the press conference to announce the transfer – held far away from seething Florence up in Modena – Baggio said: "I remained hopeful until the last minute. I did everything I could to remain in Florence but I understood that I had become a burden to the club and I wanted to end this situation as soon as possible."

The man is a remarkable character, and it could just be that Juve's big-city discipline will help him fulfil his marvellous potential. That's a big responsibility for new coach Gigi Maifredi, who is replacing Lazio-bound Dino Zoff.

In announcing the signing Juventus said they hoped their fans would appreciate the notable financial effort in acquiring Baggio and other new players for next season.

No doubt they will. But fans in Florence were not so thrilled. Two days running it took riot police to disperse angry crowds from outside the Fiorentina club offices. One group of 50 supporters staged a sit-in outside the building forcing police to cordon off the road for about 30 minutes. Around 50 youths were arrested.

Fiorentina president Flavio Pontello said in a statement – not surprising he did not dare show his face – that the club had been forced to sell Baggio for financial reasons.

They had lost a staggering £10 million in the previous 12 months because World Cup redevelopment had shut down the Stadio Comunale and sent Fiorentina off to Perugia to play a string of home games – including all their potentially lucrative home European ties up to the final.

Meanwhile Juve's double transfer raid on Koln and Fiorentina raised sinister other questions. Clearly transfer talks were well under way for both Hassler and Baggio before the relevant cup-ties. Not a pretty sight.

TOP TRANSFERS OF WORLD CUP STARS

- £8.7m – Roberto Baggio (Fiorentina) to Juventus, 1990
- £5.7m – Ruud Gullit (PSV Eindhoven) to Milan, 1987
- £5.5m – Thomas Hassler (Koln) to Juventus, 1990
- £5m – Diego Maradona (Barcelona) to Napoli, 1984
- £4.8m – Karl-Heinz Riedle (Werder Bremen) to Lazio, 1990
- £4.7m – Lajos Detari (Eintracht Frankfurt) to Olympiakos (Gr), 1988
- £4.3m – Chris Waddle (Tottenham) to Marseille, 1989
- £3.5m – Nicola Berti (Fiorentina) to Internationale
- £3.5m – Dragan Stojkovic (Red Star Belgrade) to Marseille, 1990
- £3.5m – Rafael Martin Vazquez (Real Madrid) to Torino, 1990

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NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

FROM ERIC WEIL

Pizarro wins it for Colo Colo

COLO COLO, of Santiago, Chile's most popular club, deservedly won the 1989-90 first division title – their 16th as leading winners – with a solid team which its management strengthened in the right positions and which also had a strong, young reserve squad formed in the club.

They were favourites from the start although they dropped points in the early stages, but gradually moved to the top with positive, direct and practical soccer, good team work and tactics under coach Arturo Salah.

Colo Colo lined up four Argentines – goalkeeper Danial Moron, Marcelo Baraticciotto (a young and fast striker with excellent ball control and for many the player of the year in Chile), Ricardo Dabrowsky (tall and a good header) and Sergio Diaz (an experienced attack organizer and prolific scorer).

But the outstanding player and darling of the fans was experienced Chilean midfield international Jaime Pizarro, the captain of the team, a hard worker whose intelligent tactics and hard shooting were one of the champions' strong points.

While Colo Colo may not always have played the most attractive soccer, they showed a high standard of play and were not easily ruffled when things did not turn out right. While playing an elastic 4-4-2 formation, they easily opened opposing defences when their halves moved into attack.

Lost points

Universidad Catolica, another popular team from the capital (Santiago), were level with Colo Colo for weeks in the second round of this exciting championship, but lost vital points near the end. In the usual end of season playoff between the second to fifth-placed teams, they deservedly won the vice-championship and the second place in this year's Libertadores Cup.

Their outstanding players were Argentine striker Gerardo Reinoso and Peruvian international defender Jose Del Solar, but all but three of their team were players who learnt their "trade" at the club.

It was a great year for both clubs – Colo Colo also won the pre-season championship and both clubs inaugurated new stadiums during the season. The difference between the two was that Colo Colo had older and more experienced players which counted at times.

Universidad Catolica is a young team, but they play a type of modern soccer and the players show experience beyond their age which should bring them ever better results.

Cobresal's Ruben Martinez was championship top scorer with 25 goals followed by Covarrubias (Cobreloa) 17, Argentine De Luca (La Serena) 16 and Argentine Sergio Diaz (Colo Colo) 13. Martinez, with a great eye for goal and a strong shot with both feet, moved to Colo Colo, as soon as the championship finished, for 330,000 dollars.

At press the new pre-season tournament had started (with the 20 first and 20 second division teams taking part) and on the first day Colo Colo beat Universidad de Chile – who had returned to the first division after having been relegated the previous season – 3-0 while Universidad Catolica, fielding a lot of reserves while preparing for the Libertadores Cup, lost 2-1 to Naval.

New rule

But the interesting point was a new rule which FIFA had given the Chilean FA permission to use – fouls within 25 metres from goal gave the attacking team a free kick against which defenders were not allowed to form a defensive wall.

Eight of 34 goals on the first day were scored in this way and it produced less fouls. The change was well received and it was expected that it would benefit the more skillful players as defenders would be more reluctant to resort to fouls to stop them.

Other rule changes, for which FIFA had also given permission, such as off-side only within 25 metres of goal, corners from the spot where the ball went out and free kicks from the sideline instead of throw-ins, were finally not adopted. The pre-season tournament also gives bonus points to leading teams for the first division championship later.

The new season brought no major team changes, the only major move, apart from that of Martinez, being the return from abroad of former international, Patricio Yanez to Universidad de Chile.

COLOMBIA: League soccer was still at a standstill in Colombia. The government refused permission for the championship to start as, officials said, clubs had not complied with regulations set by the government to restart soccer – such as presenting complete details of their finances and share holders (including police good conduct certificates by the latter) and the formation of a separate referees committee among other things in an effort to get drug barons and match fixing out of the game.

The league had set March 25 for a starting date and even drew up fixtures with the first stage of the tournament to be played in three regional groups of five clubs each.

But at the first league meeting only five of the clubs were represented because the others, led by America, did not back league president Alex Gorayeb, accusing him of not defending their interests.

The following week 14 clubs were represented at another meeting – Nacional was absent as the team was playing in Miami – but Gorayeb resigned because he did not have the backing of the clubs.

This is when the government stepped in to prohibit the championship to start. All negotiations at government level had been made with Gorayeb and these had not come to nothing as clubs had not complied with regulations.

Furthermore, most clubs were not in a financial position to start league play or to get their players together whom they had not paid since the championship was suspended last November.

The government was now looking into the possibility of organizing a national championship with the amateur leagues.

BRAZIL: National champions Vasco da Gama won the first round of the Guanabara state championship, the Guanabara Cup to qualify for a title clash with the eventual second stage winner.

Vasco clinched the title with one game to go by beating Campo Grande 6-0 with Bebeto, standing out as usual, scoring twice and laying on three other goals. Vasco lined up five players in the current World Cup squad – Bebeto, Bismarck, Tita, Mazinho and Acacio.

ECUADOR: Leading teams have strengthened their teams with foreigners for the new season in which the 12 first division teams will play two rounds from each of which the top four will qualify for a final round. Argentina continue to be the main suppliers with 12 of the 27 foreigners, followed by Uruguay (10, Brazil and Paraguay (two each) and Colombia (one).

Champions Barcelona, who lead after three games with full points, are coached by Argentine Oscar Malbernat and have signed veteran international halves Marcelo Trobbiani (Argentine) and Mario Saralegui (Uruguay) and also have a Uruguayan forward, Alberto Acosta.

Vice-champions Emelec – in this seasons's Libertadores Cup with Barcelona – also have an Argentine coach, Guillermo Reinoso and Argentine midfielders Carlos Russo and Carlos Mendoza, the latter being considered last year's outstanding foreign player in Ecuador when he played for Deportivo Quito.

Among other leading signings are Uruguayan Ernesto Vargas by Liga Deportiva Universitaria while Nacional continues with its policy of only fielding home players. Five of the 12 clubs have foreign trainers.

Independiente's Alfaro Moreno (right) is one of the few home-based players sure of a World Cup place.

Slump

ARGENTINA: River Plate, now coached by their former defender and World Cup captain, Daniel Passarella, took a two-point lead over champions Independiente (who have hit a slump over the last few weeks) with 11 games to go in the National A Division.

BOLIVIA: Oriente Petrolero beat 1988 champions Bolivar 1-0 in a replayed final of the second stage of the championship – each team had earlier won its home leg 1-0 but then lost 1-0 to first stage winners, The Strongest for the national title.

Jorge Wilsterman (Cochabamba) and Bolivar (La Paz) continue as leading title winners with eight, followed by The Strongest (La Paz) 6, Minicipal (La Paz) 4, Oriente Petrolero (Santa Cruz) 3 and Universitario (La Paz), Chaco Petrolero (La Paz) and Blooming (Santa Cruz) one each.

PARAGUAY: Cerro Porteno have started the first division like a whirlwind, winning their first five games and scoring 18 goals to take a four-point lead. Goalkeeper Roberto "Gato" Fernandez only conceeded his first goal just after half-time of the fifth game in which Cerro however only gained a last-minute winner. Champions Olimpia have started badly and are ninth, seven points behind.

Borelli, of one River Plate's exciting newcomers.

Rojas ban 'is illegal'

A SPECIAL Chilean investigation committee produced a 74-page report finding their national team's goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, guilty of feigning injury and causing the incident which stopped the Brazil v Chile World Cup qualifying match in Rio last year and his team mates, coaching staff and officials of aiding him.

However, a group of Chilean lawyers claim that FIFA's life ban on the goalkeeper and shorter suspensions for other players and the coach are illegal.

The Chilean constitution does not permit taking away the right to work from any of its citizens and the lawyers say that an international body cannot over-rule a country's constitution on internal matters such as banning Rojas from domestic soccer also.

Headache

The Chilean national workers union is approaching the OIT, the international workers union on the subject and this whole thing can yet cause FIFA a headache which might force them to climb down diplomatically. Needless to say, Chilean officials feel that the sanctions were far too drastic, but the general view is that the Chilean FA used Rojas as a scapegoat to avoid further FIFA sanctions.

Just before FIFA made the complete ban on Rojas official – originally it was only for international matches – Sao Bento, a modest club in the Sao Paulo state league (in Brazil) wanted to sign Rojas from Sao Paulo FC who no longer wanted him. Curiously one of Sao Bento's financial backers for the transfer was a fireworks company and Rojas did not at first agree to the propaganda purposes they wanted him for.

Rojas "poleaxed" against Brazil.

Meanwhile the Brazilian Sports Confederation filed a suit against the fan – Rosemary Mello – who threw the flare at the match in Rio which was supposed to have injured Rojas. The CBD sued for 25,600 dollars, the cost of defending their case at FIFA's headquarters in Zurich. The fan became famous when she appeared on the cover of the Brazilian edition of Playboy.

Zico, the 36-year-old former international midfielder, played his last official match for Flamengo against arch-rivals Fluminense in the Brazilian national championship on December 3.

Brilliance

His team won 5-0 and Zico, showing flashes of his old brilliance, scored one of the goals – his 728th career goal.

A few days later he was playing for the Brazilian senior (over 35) selection and on February 6 he will be playing in his own farewell match at the Maracana stadium in Rio.

Ricardo Bochini, another veteran midfielder and former Argentine international, played his 600th match for Independiente (Argentina) on December 10. Bochini is 36 and made his first division debut for the club in June, 1972.

His 61 appearances in Libertadores Cup games are probably a record and he appeared in four cup winning teams (another record) and two European-South American Cup winners. He is, however, talking of retiring at the end of the season.

Hector "Bambino" Veira resigned from San Lorenzo (Argentina) and at press time rumours linked him with River Plate. Roberto Saporiti has been engaged by San Lorenzo who are currently next to bottom in the national league.

Reinaldo Merlo and Norberto Alonso, joint coaches of River Plate and former players of the club, resigned when the club board changed (as they had said they would) although the new officials wanted them to carry on in charge of the team which is second in the national championship.

Mexico head for showdown

BY CARLOS RAMIREZ

MEXICO'S first division is entering the home stretch with 20 teams competing for eight places in the play-offs.

The league is played with a round-robin home and away schedule. However, points earned serve only to classify the first two of the four groups of five teams each. The system is not very fair from the sporting point of view, but it's a gold mine for the eight teams who go into the play-offs.

Puebla, America, and Universidad de Guadalajara are practically there with a handful of games remaining. But between fourth place in the regular league table (Monterrey) and 18th (Cobras), is a difference of merely seven points.

A total of 13 coaches have been sacked and Jose Antonio Garcia, president of the Atlante team, decided to move one of the most traditional institutions in Mexico City soccer to the city of Queretaro.

Apparently, the local authorities attracted him to this city, 125 miles north of the capital because the Corregidora stadium built for the 1986 World Cup was not being used adequately with the two second division teams Queretaro houses.

But Garcia accepted the players' conditions of living in Mexico City and playing in Queretaro and, naturally, local fans have protested by not attending matches.

On top of it all, Rafael Puente (former national goalkeeper) failed to create a good team in spite of having excellent players, and at the last minute Carlos "Chamaco" Rodriguez, an Argentinian who had failed with Irapuato last season, was called to the rescue to no effect.

Chilean Jorge Aravena (right) has been in top scoring form for Puebla.

If it were not for Veracurz, another of Garcia's concoctions (he sold the franchise of newly promoted Potros Neza to a strong group from Veracruz) and Tampico Madero, Atlante would have been assured weeks ago of a ticket to the second division – despite the presence of top foreign stars like Bauza, Comas and Palma, as well as Roberto Matosas, the famous Uruguayan star of earlier times and now as coach.

Meanwhile Guadalajara, who traditionally line up only home-born players, dismissed their coach, former Argentine goalkeeper, Ricardo Lavolpe. There had been protests all along since Lavolpe was signed at the start of the season to take over from one of the leading local coaches, Alberto Guerra, in this all-Mexican club and Guadalajara's poor performances this season have not helped the Argentine's cause.

Mexican first division clubs are allowed to sign four foreign players each and they are currently leading the scorers table – Chilean Jorge Aravena (Puebla) 11 goals, Argentine Jorge Comas (Veracruz) 10, Chilean Carlos Poblete (Puebla) 9 and Paraguayan Raul Amarilla (America) 9.

In Guatemala, champions Municipal lead the final round by a point from Suchitepequez after three games and their striker, Oscar Sanchez is the leading scorer with four goals... In Costa Rica, Saprissa had just lost a nine-game unbeaten record, but led the championship by three points over Alajuelense. In El Salvador, Alianza lead by one point over champions, Luis Angel Firpo and Atletico Marte in a tournament frequently interrupted by guerilla action.

CONCACAF on the move

CONCACAF – it sounds like something you buy in the supermarket, a new, supercaffeinated, all-action coffee, perhaps. Hardly – for the CONCACAF region of world football is not exactly known as one of the sport's more enterprising Confederations.

The region takes in North and Central America and the Caribbean islands. It has 27 members, only one which can lay any claim to being a force in the world game: Mexico. The rest, from tiny islands like Aruba and St Lucia to the giant United States are football minnows.

Logically, the President of CONCACAF is a Mexican, Joaquin Soria Terrazas, who has held the post – virtually unchallenged – for the past 27 years. He is running again, but in this year's election he faces a determined, and much younger, opponent in Jack Warner, the secretary of the Trinidad & Tobago FA.

Warner's candidacy was not appreciated by Soria and his supporters. When it was announced last November, they immediately tried to suspend both Warner and the Trinidad FA for Alleged Finance irregularities. But Warner – as a sitting member of FIFA'S Executive Committee – has friends in high places. FIFA quickly stepped in to reinstate him.

Candidates

So Warner – along with Jim Fleming, former President of the Canadian Soccer Association, and Gene Edwards, former President of the United States Soccer Federation – will run against Soria. Fleming and Edwards are not considered serious candidates, but Warner has been campaigning assiduously.

To win, he needs the votes of 14 member countries, and he has built up substantial support in the Caribbean region, which contains 16 of CONCACAF's members.

The theme of Warner's campaign – unstated, but clearly implicit in most of his plans – is that, under Sorias, CONCACAF has been stagnating and that it is time for action. In particular, he calls for "a rise in the standard of CONCACAF play so that in going into world competitions we are placed at the bottom of the competitors list."

Certainly, anyone who has tried to obtain information from – or even contact – the CONCACAF office Guatemala City will support Warner's call for "a speeding up and improving of the quality of communications to members." Warner's most intriguing suggestion is that this be done by moving the CONCACAF office to the USA (Miami or New York are likely sites).

In addition to ease of communications, there is another strong reason for CONCACAF to locate in the USA. Money. Warner's ambitious programs – they include creating new competitions within the region, setting up of coaching and refereeing courses, and the "revitalizing" of the region's chaotically organised Champion of Champions cup – need financing. Sponsors are far more likely to be found in the USA than in Guatemala.

Big Apple wants a bite

It was one of those soccer press conferences that one has grown sadly used to in the USA. The scene was the Blue Room, in New York's City Hall. Up on the platform were about 10 guys, politicians mostly, who were clearly not soccer people.

One waited for the first clanger to be dropped, for someone to mispronounce Pele's name, or to look blank when asked to comment on the activities of FIFA. It didn't happen. The realisation grew, quickly, that these were professional people who knew exactly what they were doing.

A highly encouraging occasion which marked a crucial step forward in the plans for the 1994 World Cup. For it had seemed likely that World Cup-94 would have to go ahead without games in the New York area. There was simply no stadium to house them, the cost of widening Giants Stadium, the Cosmos' old home, being more than anyone was willing to bear.

BY PAUL GARDNER

To the rescue came the guys in the Blue Room. The stars of the occasion were two Mayors: David Dinkins of New York, and John Daniels of New Haven. They announced a joint bid to host World Cup games.

The stadium to be used would be the Yale Bowl – which is in New Haven, Connecticut, some 79 miles north of New York City. But New York City would be the base for the fans, journalists and officials.

Special transport would be laid on to take everybody to and from the games. And New York was also putting in a bid to be the site for the massively important International Broadcasting Center, which FIFA regulations require.

Said Matthew Scheckner, Executive Director of New York City Sports Commission: "We know that FIFA wants games in this part of the country. And the New York City people know the World Cup is big stuff. They want it here – I haven't had to do any convincing. We have a very good chance to be one of the 12 sites, and we think we could be one of the big three that gets the big games like the semi-finals, final, or opening game."

Assuming the use of 12 sites (though the WC-94 people have recently begun talking openly of using only nine) the maximum number of games in any one stadium would probably be seven – say, three first round games, two second round, a semi-final and the final.

Of course, money will have to be spent. The WC-94 Organising Committee has set out the terms: each potential site must put up a certain amount of money for each game that they wish to stage. This deposit must be sent in, along with the detailed bid, by December 14.

"They're asking for hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Scheckner. "It's pretty brutal – but our strength is the strength of this region." By which he means the New York business community, and the country's largest soccer community.

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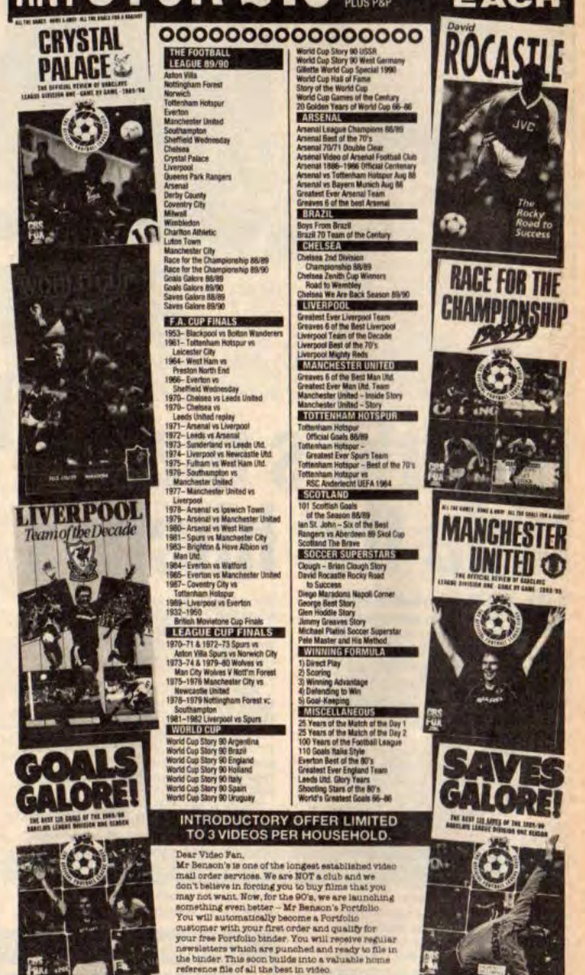

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SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Real Madrid's Martin Vazquez.

Madrid's magic hide the hitches

WHEN the meat is always the same, people pay more attention to the gravy. And while Real Madrid were inexorably clocking up their fifth consecutive league title by a nine point margin, the rest were left to flounder around in some pretty thick gravy.

But, giving credit where credit is due, Real produced a memorable league campaign in a season which looked ripe for a fall from grace.

This time last year John Toshack had been appointed manager to sort out the kinks in a dressing-room where life was not all wine and roses. Michel had asked for a transfer, and much of Real's own 'gravy' during the second half of the season was devoted to the will-he-won't-he transfer of another ace midfielder. Rafael Martin Vazquez to Torino.

The 24-year-old product of Real's youth scheme was the outstanding player of the season and his personal record of 14 league goals proved that, at last, he had added punch to his superb technical skills. But after announcing that Real's offer of a new contract wasn't good enough to match Torino's £650,000- per-season, he ended the campaign being jeered by the fans in the Bernabeu stadium every time he touched the ball.

Remarkably, Toshack's new-look Real survived the scandals, the rumours, the pressures and the early European elimination by Milan to produce a record-smashing season.

They lost only two games out of 38. They pulverised Barcelona's record of 96 league goals by slamming 107. And Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez equalled Zarra's record of 38 goals – and, despite bitter accusations from their rivals that Real were favoured by referees – only three of them were penalties.

Apart from dismally relegated sides Celta and Rayo Vallecano (where Hugo Maradona did little to live up to his famous surname) Barcelona were once again Top of the Flops. A third place 11 points behind Real Madrid represents a scant return on a £15 million investment.

Ramon Martinez, the Chief Scout who left Barcelona because of "incompatibility with the manager" and has now joined Real Madrid, pinpoints Barcelona's problems as "the frivolities of Johan Cruyff".

The Dutchman has signed 17 new players in two years and has now increased his total by snapping up winger Juan Anthonio Goicoechea from Real Sociedad and goalscoring midfielder Hristo Stoichkov, signed for £1.4 million from CSKA Sofia.

"Stoichkov is a born winner," says Cruyff. "And he has a nasty temper, which is exactly what we need. Our team is altogether too nice."

Cruyff's continuity at Barcelona is down to the 2-0 Cup Final win over Real Madrid which salvaged some pride from a grim season and which showed that Real are not short of bad-tempered players when things are going against them.

The cry that "Real don't know how to lose" began after their European Cup elimination by Milan (only Valladolid lasted until the spring in a dismal European showing) and John Toshack raised hackles in his own dressing-room after the Cup Final by refusing to toe the party line in blaming the ref and by questioning his players' attitude. 'Tosh' has yet to convince his stars that in crucial matches 'commitment' doesn't mean kicking opponents several feet into the air and getting sent off.

Real's 25th league win has rubbed more salt into the wounds of fiery Atletico Madrid president, Jesus Gil, who a year ago was convinced he'd assembled a title-winning side under champion coach Javier Clemente.

Superstar

A disappointing fourth place was clinched by Clemente's successor Joaquin Peiro and Portuguese superstar Paulo Futre summed up their entire season by locking himself away in his luxury villa and refusing to come out until he's shaken off his 'acute depression' enough to request a transfer.

On seeing Gil's asking price of £14 million, Futre has now announced his intention to stay.

It's also shake-up time at Athletic Bilbao who, having sacked Howard Kendall, finished 12th under Chechu Rojo with just 11 wins in 38 games. This month's presidential elections will produce a successor to Pedro Aurteneche, and a couple of the presidential candidates have promised the return of Javier Clemente, the coach who led the 'Lions' to league triumphs in 1983 and 1984.

During a year of disappointment, the success stories have been few and far between.

Valencia, ably coached by Victor Esparrago, generated much-needed profits of over 1 million by finishing second, but the Mediterranean side never mounted a challenge to Real.

Sevilla, under Argentine-Chilean coach Vicente Cantatore, produced some of the most exciting football of the season and 33-goal Austrian striker Toni Polster emerged from the wreckage of his tarnished reputation to produce an outstanding campaign.

They were deprived of fifth place by a hotly-disputed late penalty in their last match which allowed Ireland striker John Aldridge to take his tally to a creditable 16 and allowed Real Sociedad to sneak into Europe.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

BESIKTAS HALFWAY THERE

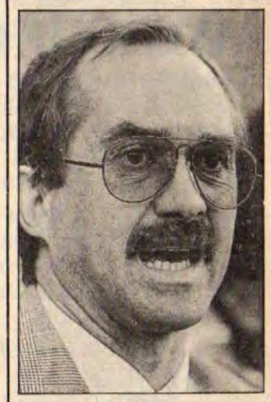
BESIKTAS retained the Turkish cup when they beat Trabzonspor 2-0 in the final in Izmir – the first leg of the double for English boss Gordon Milne.

Trabzonspor wasted a couple of first-half chances in front of a 35,000 crowd when national keeper Engin also made a couple of fine saves. But Besiktas seized control at the start of the second half.

Feyyaz headed them into the lead in the 67th minute and Mehmet headed a second beyond Jean-Marie Pfaff in the 74th.

Fenerbahce are already planning for next season. The club claimed an agreement with the PSV Eindhoven coach, Guus Hiddink. Fenerbahce also hope to have Ridvan Dilmen back for the 1990-91 season after his recovery from a fourth cartilage operation. The latest surgery was carried out in Bristol, USA, after Swiss specialists failed to resolve the problem.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL



Stielike turns on the fans

SWITZERLAND'S national team manager Uli Stielike was furious that only 10,000 fans turned up in Berne to see world champions Argentina – with Maradona – and hardly raised a decent cheer between them.

"We should not be playing internationals in Berne anymore stormed the West German after the match played in a low key atmosphere, not surprisingly, since the ground was only about one fifth full.

The Swiss did what they could and just about earned the 1-1 draw secured through a last-minute goal by the Turkish-born Kubilay Turkyilmaz. Earlier, Abel Balbo, from Italian club Udinese, put the South Americans ahead.

Hardly any of the world champions exerted himself unduly, neither did of course Maradona who played most of the match at a gentle trot. No-one wanted to risk injury so close to the World Cup. Interesting spectators were some of the ll Argentinians currently with Swiss clubs, none of them in the nationa squad.

Video film

The Swiss were without No 1 keeper Martin Brunner, who had flown to England for a trial at Newcastle. Last summer Brunner had sent English clubs a video film of his ability, but got no response.

The most sensational result of the championship pool was Grasshoppers' 5-0 win over favourites Xamax Neuchatel. The Zurich club's hero was the young Dane Mark Strudal, 22, who scored twice. The Hoppers could win the title, but the future of the top players is uncertain.

Captain Andy Egli, 32, and Thomas Wyss, 24, are almost certain to leave the Hardturm. Martin Andermatt, 29, is discussing terms with Servette and Young Boys. Brunner could be going to England, while the four foreigners are also contemplating moves. Strudal also claims contacts with English and German clubs. West German midfielder Harald Kohr,28, may be returning home.

Maradona's return after injury helped Napoli clinch the title.

ITALY BY MIKE SCOTT

MARADONA GRABS LAST-GASP GLORY

WITH just two games to go in the race for the League title, Milan's dream of a five-trophy Grand Slam still looked on.

A 2-1 defeat away to Bayern Munich in midweek had been enough to secure their place in the European cup final – Milan had won 1-0 at San Siro.

They had the Italian Cup final second-leg home tie against Juventus to look forward to, with the scores still goalless. And they were sharing top spot in the League table with 47 points.

So as Milan lined up against struggling Verona, their chairman Silvio Berlusconi was already making room in the trophy cabinet beside the European Super Cup and the World Club Cup – won in December against Barcelona 2-1 on aggregate, and Atletico Nacional of Colombia 1-0 in Tokyo. Ruud Gullit was even on the Milan bench the first time he's been named in the squad in 11 months. The dream though was about to be shattered.

On the hour as Gullit stripped off his tracksuit, the crowd erupted. And seconds later speculation on the Dutchman's comeback were over.

At the time Milan were leading from a Marco Simone first-half free-kick. But two minutes later Gullit made a darting run down the right wing and crossed to his international teammate Marco Van Basten, who was floored by a clumsy challenge.

The excitement for Arrigo Sacchi of seeing his two Dutch strikers in action again was too much. But his protests brought no penalty kick, just a red card.

Two minutes after that there were more red faces, this time in the Milan defence as Argentinian Victor Sotomayor headed Verona level from a corner. Then with eight minutes left and the game heading for a draw Milan's third Dutchman Frank Rijkaard was sent off for dissent.

Soon after, Van Basten followed for the same crime – he threw his jersey into the centre circle after another dubious refereeing decision. And when Davide Pellegrini broke clear of the Milan defence a minute from time and chipped a stunned Andrea Pazzagli, the league title and the Grand Slam were lost.

Even Alessandro Costacurta's sending off, following protests over Verona's winner, didn't seem to matter anymore. And the news from Bologna, where Napoli had clinched a 4-2 win, confirmed it.

At least Gullit was back and not surprisingly his was the only smiling face to emerge from the visitors' dressing-room at Verona.

Milan's defeat left Napoli needing just one point from their last game against Lazio at San Paolo; where they had only dropped a point all season (against Sampdoria), to lift their second League title. They won 1-0.

Napoli had started the season well, despite being without late arrival Diego Maradona, and Brazilian stars Careca and Alemao – on duty in the South American Cup.

Milan too, started the season without their stars. As well as Gullit, Van Basten missed the first seven games with tendonitus. But with their Dutch master back the team's fortunes changed: after an opening ten-points-from-ten-games spell, they dropped just two points from their next 17. And when Milan's 3-0 League victory over Napoli at San Siro in mid-February, – which put the two sides level at the top was followed days later by a 3-1 semi-final win in Naples in the Coppa Italia they looked ready to surrender.

Napoli's fading fortunes were made worse when the following Sunday Maradona despite topping 100 goals for his Italian club against Roma, limped off after the game holding his back. The 29-year-old Argentinian was out of action for almost a month.

But two things helped turn the tables back in Napoli's favour. Firstly, Maradona's fight for World Cup fitness sent him back to physiotherapist Antonio Dal Monte – who had helped him prepare for Mexico in 1986. The doctor put him on a diet. And during the last month of the League championship a lighter – by over a stone – and fitter Napoli captain was firing on all cylinders.

Then a 100 lire coin was thrown from the terraces during Napoli's visit to Atalanta. The coin hit Alemao on the head and he had to be taken to hospital. And while the game finished goalless, the League awarded it to Napoli 2-0 and fined Atalanta £15,000.

The punishment bore heaviest on Milan. Napoli's extra point put the two sides level with three games to go.

In the Coppa Italia final Milan's opponents were Juventus. They had put out Roma in the semis after holding on to a 2-0 advantage from the home leg in Turin, with a 3-2 defeat in the capital.

Juve's league showing, apart from bringing Milan's tremendous 17-game run to an abrupt end in March with a 3-0 win in Turin, lacked consistency.

In cup competition, though Juve seemed to find another gear. And as with the Coppa Italia, they managed to find their way to the UEFA Cup final, against Fiorentina.

Their advancement in the UEFA Cup seemed to surprise everyone, including themselves. The club had been under threat of a take-over for most of the season from Italian film director Cecchi Gori, the players were shunted from Florence to Perugia as their Stadio Comunale received its World Cup facelift, and it also had to cope with supporters' strikes over the probable departure of Baggio.

It left Fiorentina floundering near the foot of the League table, and only a 4-1 win against Atalanta in the last game saved them from relegation.

In Europe though they seemed invincible. Atletico Madrid, Dinamo Kiev and Napoli's conquerors Werder Breman were all swept aside. But after a 3-1 defeat in the first leg of the final in Turin, Juventus looked to have done enough for victory.

In the Cup-winners' Cup Sampdoria improved happily on last year's feat of reaching the final. And after an injury-troubled season for La Samp's (and Italy's) star striker Gianluca Vialli, it was the ideal World Cup boost when they beat Anderlecht in Gothenburg.

In the Champions' Cup great things were expected of Internazionale after their colossal 1988/9 season: they finished 11 points ahead of second-place Napoli in the League.

But even their new signing from Stuttgart, Jurgen Klinsmann, could not save them from a first round exit against Malmo. Inter never seemed to recover their confidence.

Jari Europaeus.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Kuusysi shock HJK

THE new independent Finnish football league began with HJK Helsinki and Kuusysi Lahti clashing in Helsinki. These two teams have dominated the Finnish scene for the past decade.

HJK, under former national coach Martti Kuusela, are hot favourites for the title. But Kuusysi showed no respect as they mercilessly rocked HJK to the tune of 3-0. Goals were scored by Sixten Bostrom, Hannu Jantti and Keijo Kousa. To crown a nightmarish afternoon for HJK, their defender and Finnish international captain Jari Europaeus damaged his ankle ligaments and will be out at least two months.

New foreign players in Finland include the Hungarian pair of Attila Heredi and Gyorgy Katona (both ex-Ujpest Dozsa) at Haka. Sweeper Heredi, 31, has won full caps for his country and was Hungary's 'Player of the Year' in 1988.

The Polish coach Jerzy Masztaler has replaced Brian Doyle at RoPS Rovaniemi, while newcomers to the league, Kumu Kuusankoski, have employed former Blackburn Rovers favourite Derek Fazackerley as the man in charge.

Jean-Pierre Papin has been in great form for club and country.

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO MARSEILLE

ON the face of it, an anti-climactic end to our season. No participation in the World Cup, and none in the European Cup Final.

Yet are things quite as bad as they seem? After all, there has been a tremendous revival of the international team under Michel Platini even if, alas, it came too late to get us to Italy.

Can anyone deny, especially after the easy victory in Paris over Scotland, that by the end of the group tournament, France did not look the best of the teams involved?

Alas, far too much had been thrown away in the meantime. But come the Nations Cup qualifiers, Platini should reap the benefit of the excellent work he has done.

And, I hope, give the lie to a story which has been circulating: that French players have not done so well in recent years because total freedom of contract has put so much power in their hands and so much money in their pockets that they have become complacent.

Recent performances by France haven't shown that; nor have those of Olympique Marseille in the European Cup. True, they missed a shoal of chances after largely outplaying Benfica in the first leg semi final at home. But it was the hand of God, or the devil, compounded by inadequate refereeing, which so shamefully eliminated them in Lisbon. Even if the limp goalkeeping of the veteran Castaneda, in the absence of Ettori, might have condemned them to surrender several other goals.

But who can deny that Jean-Pierre Papin has had a magnificent season, for France and for Marseille alike? Who cannot enjoy those remarkable goals he was scoring at the end, sometimes even running half the length of the field? And who would not have admired the way he and Chris Waddle, striking up a friendship from the very beginning, have brought the best out of each other? Papin wishes he were in Italy, not least to wipe out the memory of those goals he missed in Mexico. But surely Waddle must not be happy to take the field without Papin.

Sliding out of favour with Carlos Bilardo, Argentine team manager, out of the Paris Saint-Germain team of his own volition, the talented left winger Gabriel Calderon blames it publicly and totally on Tomislav Ivic, Yugoslav manager of the Parisian club. Ivic, he complains, would never have dared to treat his Yugoslav players, Susic and Vujovic, in so cavalier a way: nor such French players as Bravo. But he himself, he says, has been deployed all over the place, in the hope that his versatility benefits the team.

Gabriel Calderon ... out of favour.

A left winger by role and by preference, Calderon says he does not mind being switched to the right; what he resents is being made to drop much deeper, even to the extent of operating in defence. Ivic denied it all. Calderon will surely be on his way at the end of the season.

So, in somewhat different circumstances, we may assume, will be the 29-year-old Racing Paris goalkeeper, Pascal Olmeta; probably to Marseille, where he had a splendid game this season, loved the atmosphere, and appreciated the applause of the home crowd.

It is thanks to him in large measure that Racing had such a good Cup run, and that they so long retained a notional hope of staying in Division I. Olmeta, though he actually stood as an opposition candidate of late in the elections in Bastia – for football rather than for political reasons – is much attached to Paris, much attached to the club, and insists his commitment is wholly to them and their fortunes till the very last moment. Were they to stay in Division I he might stay with them.

But the idea of Marseille attracts him too; the club, the crowd, the city itself, with its sunshine.

Julio Cesar hasn't made the cut, either – for Brazil. His manager at Montpellier, Michel Mezy, once a French international himself, is displeased. He feels that Julio Cesar, who has settled down well with the club after some initial ups and downs, remains one of the best centre-backs in the world. But the Marseille man, Mozer, who arrived from Benfica last summer, had got in ahead of him.

Happy days for the big centre-forward Cherif Oudjani. He it was who spun to score the winning African Nations Cup Final goal for his native Algeria against Nigeria, a few months ago. He has had a very good season with Sochaux, too.

Actually, the 25-year-old Oudjani was born in Lens, where he began his career in 1983, and where he has had no fewer than three spells. In 1985 he moved to Laval, where he scored 14 goals in 31 games; which no doubt was what made Lens take him back the following season. Yet after he had notched six goals in 14 games, surely not bad going by any standards, he was lent to a waning Matra Racing team. There he got another seven goals in 18 games and did much to revive them.

Back again for another season at Lens with 13 goals in 30 games followed by a dozen in 31. Whereupon Lens sold him to Sochaux. He has hardly been prolific there, netting but eight goals in his first 31 games but he has made a strong impact, none the less. At the beginning of the season, and at the end. He got away to a prolific start, with no fewer than four goals in the six opening games. Then something seemed to go wrong. After the long, the overly long, winter break, he found himself mostly on the substitutes' bench, coming on late in the game. Restored to first choice against Lille, he scored the only goal of the match, gave his club their first win for seven games and showed what they had been missing.

SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Brolin's the new sensation

TOMAS Brolin is Sweden's latest goal-scoring hope for the World Cup finals in Italy.

The 20-year-old forward with boyish looks enjoyed a two-goal full international debut in Sweden's 4-2 win over Wales and has been busy scoring goals in the league, too. Brolin, in fact, began the season with a hat-trick in IFK Norrkoping's sensational 6-0 win over Gothenburg.

Brolin is a typical opportunist, who is able to pop up in the box just when he is needed. He was spotted in 1987 by the former international forward Anders Gronhagen, then the coach of GIF Sundsvall. Last autumn, after scoring twice in the Under-21 European Championship matches, Brolin was signed by the league champions Norrkoping.

Young Tomas is just one of the reasons for Norrkoping's new coach Jorgen Augustsson to feel optimistic. Augustsson, a World Cup defender for Sweden in 1974, has a very talented team at his disposal. And it has been further strengthened by the signing of Russian midfielder Yevgeni Kuznetsov from Spartak Moscow. Kuznetsov, 29, played for the gold-winning Soviet Union team during the Seoul Olympics.

It is difficult to assess the current form of IFK Gothenburg, who, after that crash in Norrkoping, recovered to defeat AIK Stockholm 5-0 (forwards Kennet Andersson and Kaj Eskelinen each netted twice). The other team from Gothenburg, GAIS, have made some early splashes, thanks to a powerful defence and goals by young Magne Gustafsson.

Thomas Berthold ... under fire!

WEST GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Last minute headaches for the Kaiser

WEST GERMANY'S toughest test before the World Cup finals, against Uruguay, which ended in a 3-3 draw, left questions unanswered. It pinpointed defensive weaknesses, lack of organisation at the back and caused national team manager Franz Beckenbauer new headaches in his quest for a settled formation.

Kaiser Franz is of course already used to the problems of finding a libero. Sixteen have been tried since he retired from the international scene back in 1977. But the pulled hamstring of the man in possession, Bayern Munich's captain Klaus Augenthaler, forced the team boss to a new variation.

He intended to play with a flat back four, but at the last minute decided against it, so that Thomas Berthold was given the role of libero, though advised to remain behind three defenders. But although Berthold performed well, the man-markers Guido Buchwald and Jurgen Kohler had difficulty with the speedy South American forwards.

In goal Bodo Illgner began the match, while as arranged Raimond Aumann replaced him for the second half and he conceded all three goals, though he was blameless. In midfield Lothar Matthaus needed 20 minutes to find his rhythm and was overshadowed by Thomas Hassler, the best German, and veteran Koln colleague Pierre Littbarski, playing his 65th international.

Up front the most dangerous was Rudi Voller who scored a super goal; Matthaus and Jurgen Klinsmann got the others. But it is nearly four years since the Germans last conceded three goals in a match.

Beckenbauer said he had seen several other World Cup preparatory matches and none was as good as his team's against Uruguay. He was at least pleased with the effort and commitment in tackling by some of the players. He also made allowances for the fact that the Bundesliga was in its decisive stage and several players were feeling the strains.

The team chief praised Berthold and added: "I can't understand why he was being criticised, but Augenthaler, if fit, remains my No I libero, with Berthold the next in line as an alternative. Problems exist with Kohler and Buchwald, particularly when faced with small mobile strikers.

"I was delighted with Hassler, Littbarski and both strikers. Compared with Mexico four years ago, we are technically stronger and spirits are enormously high. We'll have to take the preparations step by step and I don't have any worries concerning the World Cup. If we reach the semi-finals, then we shall want to win the tournament."

Beckenbauer gathered his lieutenants, Berti Vogts, who will succeed the team boss after the World Cup, Hannes Lohr, Gero Bisanz, Bernd Stober, as well as his right hand man Holger Osieck, for a "summit". They discussed the World Cup preparations for over four hours and of course the formation of the 22-man squad.

The future of Matthaus is at present uncertain. Four top European clubs, including one from Italy, are after the German ace who would like to stay with Inter Milan when his contract runs out. The club, as is customary with players around 30, are offering him only a one year extension – Matthaus is keen on a three, or four-year deal to finish his career in Milan.

Bayern Munich, who duly won their 12th Bundesliga title, are considering turning themselves into a public limited company whose shares would be floated on the Stock Exchange. The record champions are hoping to raise about £20 million to be able to compete for top players with Italian and Spanish clubs.

Rudi Voller scored a super goal against Uruguay.

RUMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Olt and Victoria scrapped

THE 'elimination' of politically-tainted FC Olt and Victoria Bucharest from the spring half of the championship and the expunging of their records meant a slightly earlier end to the campaign though its extending past mid-May did not help World Cup preparations.

With the 16 clubs still having two or three games to play, Steaua led Dinamo by a point, Dinamo had a game in hand but Steaua a slightly better goal difference.

Balint of Steaua leads the goalscorers with 19 followed by Raducioiu (Dinamo), 14 and Popa (Farul), 13.

Games schedules with Olt and Victoria count as a 3-0 for their opponents. The league table shows them at the foot on places 17 and 18 with nil points and 75 goals against!

GREECE BY LOUIS ECONOMOPOULOS

WARZYCHA AIMS FOR THE TITLE

OPPONENTS of Panathinaikos have found out that Krzystof Warzycha is no Polish joke.

Ever since the 26-year-old forward arrived from Poland halfway through the season, Panathinaikos have dominated the First Division. With just three matches to the end of the season they had a comfortable four-point lead over AEK and PAOK.

In 18 matches Warzycha has scored 14 goals – none from the penalty spot including four against Levadiakos in a 6-2 Panathinaikos rout.

But Vazeha has not only been the top scorer for Panathinaikos. He is also the leading assist man on the team, providing a dozen passes which were turned into goals by his teammates. It's no surprise that Panathinaikos have the best attack in the league (70 goals in 31 matches).

Levadiakos coach Telis Batakis said: "I have not seen a better player in the Greek league in the last few years. Whoever does not believe that is a liar or has lost contact with reality."

Panathinaikos took a big step towards the league championship the first Sunday of May when they drew 1-1 with AEK. It was a battle of the best attack (Panathinaikos) against the best defence, AEK, who had conceded just 18 goals all season.

The derby attracted the largest crowd of the day 30,000 – while the other eight matches drew from 6,000 to just 1,200 fans, leaving a poor 48,747 total attendance.

The Fourth Division match between Moschato and Aeoliko failed to begin as players from both sides were involved in a free-for-all which sent five players from the visiting Aeoliko team to hospital.

Manager Leo Beenhakker.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

AJAX END PSV REIGN

AJAX Amsterdam have won the Dutch championship. Their first league trophy since 1985 comes after PSV won the league four years in a row. An era in Dutch football has ended.

Ajax made sure of the title in their penultimate match, a thrilling encounter with Roda Kerkrade in Amsterdam. With ten minutes to go, Roda were 2-0 up, thanks to silly back-passes from Ajax's Richard Witschge and Dennis Bergkamp. In the 83rd minute Wim Jonk pulled a goal back for Ajax, and with just five minutes to go, after an enormous scrimmage in Roda's goalmouth, Ron Willems knocked in the equaliser. "I had given up hope", Ajax's manager Leo Beenhakker admitted.

Willems' goal meant that Ajax needed only to draw in their last match, away to NEC Nijmegen, to take the championship. They went a goal down, but drew level before half-time. That, apart from some crowd misbehaviour, was it.

It was a very young team that won the championship. Half the side is under 21, and at 30, Jan Wouters is by far the oldest player. Occasionally, at their best, this team remind spectators of the young side of the early 1980s, which won the Dutch league several times. That team included Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Ronald Koeman, Gerald Vanenburg, Jan Molby, Jesper Olsen, John Bosman, John van Schip and quite a few other stars of today.

It is hardly a criticism to say that the current side are slightly less gifted. However, players like Bryan Roy, Richard Witschwge, Dennis Bergkamp, Frank and Ronald de Boer and Marciano Vink, not one of them over 20, will surely find their way to Italy and Spain. Ajax have learned from the past, and have given these young players long-term contracts. Roy, Witschge and Vink are all tied to the club for a couple of seasons yet, and when they go they will go for millions. Ajax now refuse to give players clauses in their contracts promising limited transfer fees. That is how Milan managed to buy Marco van Basten for just £300,000.

Ajax must be expected to win the league next year too. Not one player is leaving the club, and maturing youth should make the side even stronger.

PSV, their rivals, are in flux. They are still looking for a manager to replace Guus Hiddink (though they are likely to sign Bobby Robson), Soren Lerby and Ivan Nielsen are retiring, and Wim Kieft is leaving, probably for Italy. The quarrels that tore the club apart this season should end with the departures of the men involved. PSV hope to make a fresh start with a younger side.

Their one big signing is Erwin Koeman, who comes to Eindhoven from KV Mechelen. Koeman will take Lerby's place in midfield. His transfer represents a major coup for PSV: it is hard for Dutch clubs to find affordable Dutch internationals. As a teenager, Koeman had a brief spell with PSV, but he failed to impress.

PSV's consolation prize this season was the Dutch Cup. They beat Vitesse Arnhem 1-0 in the final. Poor John van der Brom missed a penalty for Vitesse, who can nevertheless look back on an unexpectedly successful season.

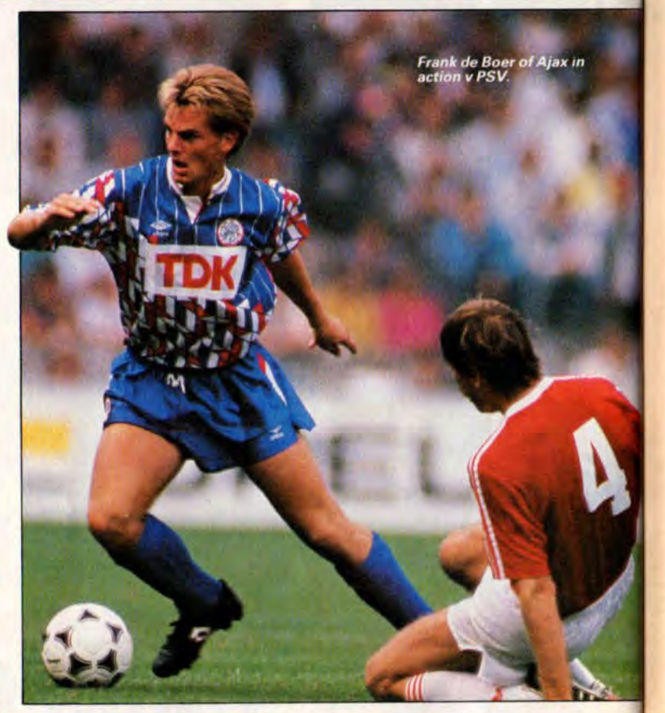
Promoted to the premier division this year, they played attractive football, had three players picked for the national team, and qualified for the UEFA Cup. Their target had been to avoid relegation.

Ajax's championship means that Holland have no representative in next year's European Cup. The club were banned from European football for a year after spectators threw metal bars at Austria Vienna's goalkeeper.

The attention is now on the national team. Holland's new manager, Leo Beenhakker, takes over in difficult conditions: most of his players would have preferred Johan Cruyff to get the job.

Almost everyone would agree that Cruyff is tactically superior to Beenhakker. Also, he commands more respect than Beenhakker among Holland's self-confident stars.

However, there were a number of valid reasons for ignoring Cruyff. Firstly, his extremely attacking 3-4-3 system might have proved vulnerable against top-class counter-attacking sides. Secondly, wherever Cruyff goes there are rows.



Frank de Boer of Ajax in action v PSV.

Beenhakker is not particularly popular with anyone, but he is acceptable to everyone.

The choice of Beenhakker over Cruyff is immensely significant. It means that Holland will use the same tactics as at the European Championships, for Beenhakker is sure to perpetuate Rinus Michels's ideas. Now that Gullit is fit again, the side which won the European Championships two years ago can be almost totally restored. Only the retired Arnold Muhren will not come to Italy.

Beenhakker will find a replacement for him and otherwise leave Michels's team intact. Cruyff would have changed the side drastically.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

A MONTH before the end of the championship CSKA were home and dry having opened up a 12 point lead over cross-town rivals Levski.

Slavia, third, and Lok, fifth, could make it an all Sofia representation in next season's European Cup if Etar continue to fail to take full points at home as they did against Lok.

More important, as the campaign draws to its conclusion, was whether Stoitchkov's teammates could provide him with enough bullets to fire in the race for the Golden Boot.

With an average of over a goal a game he should qualify for one of the awards before leaving for Barcelona.

Following him on 32 in the Bulgarian scorers are Mikhtarski (Levski) on 22 and Petkov (Levski), 17. In one of his last home games Stoitchkov netted 'only' twice against Plovdiv, weak opposition plunging towards relegation with Botev Vratza and Cerno More.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Zsak hammer the holders

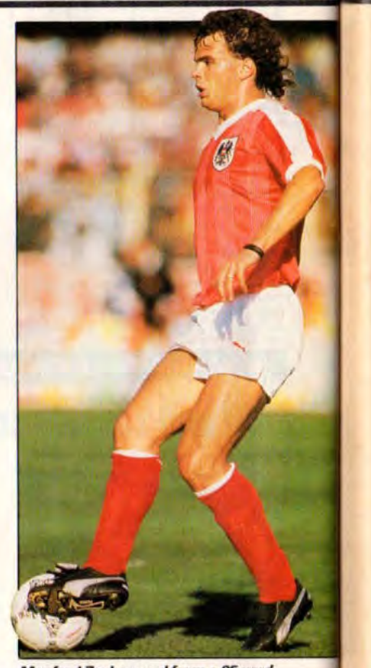
SWITZERLAND'S national team manager Uli Stielike was furious that only 10,000 fans turned up in Berne to see world champions Argentina – with Maradona – and hardly raised a decent cheer between them.

"We should not be playing internationals in Berne anymore stormed the West German after the match played in a low key atmosphere, not surprisingly, since the ground was only about one fifth full.

The Swiss did what they could and just about earned the 1-1 draw secured through a last-minute goal by the Turkish-born Kubilay Turkyilmaz. Earlier, Abel Balbo, from Italian club Udinese, put the South Americans ahead.

Hardly any of the world champions exerted himself unduly, neither did of course Maradona who played most of the match at a gentle trot. No-one wanted to risk injury so close to the World Cup. Interesting spectators were some of the II Argentinians currently with Swiss clubs, none of them in the national squad.

The Swiss were without No 1 keeper Martin Brunner, who had flown to England for a trial at Newcastle. Last summer Brunner had sent English clubs a video film of his ability, but got no response.



Manfred Zsak scored from a 25 yard free-kick.

Hero

The most sensational result of the championship pool was Grasshoppers' 5-0 win over favourites Xamax Neuchatel. The Zurich club's hero was the young Dane Mark Strudal, 22, who scored twice. The Hoppers could win the title, but the future of the top players is uncertain.

Captain Andy Egli, 32, and Thomas Wyss, 24, are almost certain to leave the Hardturm. Martin Andermatt, 29, is discussing terms with Servette and Young Boys. Brunner could be going to England, while the four foreigners are also contemplating moves. Strudal also claims contacts with English and German clubs. West German midfielder Harald Kohr,28, may be returning home.

BELGIUM BY IAIN MACLEOD

BRUGGE'S TITLE AS ANDERLECHT FOLD UP

Inspired Jan Ceulemans.

CLUB Brugge landed a surprise title triumph, as Anderlecht's season collapsed.

Defeat in the final of the Cup-winners' Cup followed an embarrassing 3-0 home league defeat by Mechelen which highlighted just how far Anderlecht still have to go if they are to restore former glories.

Mechelen, in fact, have emerged as perhaps Belgium's only genuine top class side; although they lost in extra-time against Milan in their European Cup quarter-final, their performance earned widespread praise.

Aad Mos's move to Anderlecht during last close season had revived the Brussels club and put Mechelen in their place. Or so it seemed. Not for the first time this season Anderlecht failed to produce the goods as Mechelen's well organised defence easily held the hosts at bay.

Marc Wilmots scored the opening goal after 11 minutes and when John Bosman added a second 14 minutes later, the match was already beyond Anderlecht's reach. Pascal de Wilde scored the third seven minutes from the end, the stunned capacity crowd were left in doubt about the quality of the visiting side.

It was a significant loss for Anderlecht who, until then had been neck and neck with Brugge.

To add to Anderlecht's woes, they also lost their hold on the Belgian Cup when they lost 3-2 on aggregate to FC Liege to depart at the quarter-final stage.

Brugge took decisive advantage of Anderlecht's errors. Inspired by the midfield influence of veteran Jan Ceulemans and the 24 goals of top-scoring Australian Frank Farina they forged ahead with great spirit.

As national boss Guy Thys said! "I wish I could take that spirit with me to the World Cup."

SOVIET UNION

KIEV Dynamo ensured their place in the Cup-winners' Cup next term when they thrashed Lokomotiv Moscow 6-1 in the cup final.

But in the 13-club strong All Union – the Baltics and Georgia excepted – League, it was Dynamo Moscow who lead by a point from their army rivals CSKA.

Two other Moscow sides filled places four and five, respectively, last year champions Spartak, and UEFA competitors Torpedo.

Only Kiev whose home game with the leaders was postponed, can currently challenge this Muscovite preeminence, a turn round from recent seasons, Spartak apart.

Problem

Goalscoring, again with the exception of Spartak, is every team's problem, the bottom five clubs having only managed to date thirty between them.

In poor form are Dnepr, without a win for a month, though they will be in the UEFA Cup draw with Torpedo Moscow and Chernomorets Odessa.

Soon the league will be put in cold – or, at least, part-summer storage – as Loba & Co head for Italy. The last pre-squad selection test was lost 3-2 to Israel but, regardless of that result as many as a dozen of the Soviet panel will be from Kiev.

HUNGARY

Bicskei is back – again!

BERTALAN Bicskei is, amazingly, back in charge of the national team.

Pushed sideways after the failure to qualify for the World Cup finals and replaced by Kalman Meszoly, his appeal to the Labour Court was upheld. Then, when the Hungarian FA appealed to the Court of Appeal, the decision remained in favour of Bicskei.

The Hungarian FA had no right and no reason to dismiss Bicskei, it was against the law of the land to appoint Kalman Meszoly, the Court of Appeal ruled.

The effect of the decision, besides the squad Bicskei must select for the friendly against Holland on June 2, is expected to be resignations within the national federation.

Dr Mihaly Laczko, the president, championed Meszoly, the former international defender, in whose last international match in charge no Hungarian had made more than a handful of appearances in the national shirt. A compromise between Bicskei-educated, cultured, multilingual – and Meszoly, with a rich football background, is not feasible.

Leaders

MTK-VM, the favourites to win the championship, led Ujpest Dozsa by three points with two rounds remaining – despite a run of five successive defeats, two being in the quarter-finals of the Cup to Raba ETO who beat them in the league, too. In goal for those five games was Gabor Zsiboras, previously of Ferencvaros, who had earlier become the seventh player to be awarded the maximum 10 marks by Nepsport, the sports daily, for his performance in the 2-1 win over Budapest Honved.

Jozsef Dzurjak remains the leading scorer, with 16 of the 44 goals scored by Ferencvaros who have replaced Pecs MSC in third place. Csepel are already relegated and one from once-mighty Honved, Debrecen, Vac Izzo and Haladas will be in the play-offs. Honved beat Izzo 2-0, the score by which Pecs beat Raba, also at home, in the first legs of the semi-finals of the Cup, the final of which will be on June 26.

EAST GERMANY BY BOB VAUGHAN

East Germans may quit Euro '90

POLITICAL change has wreaked havoc on the 'Oberliga'.

Many spectators now take the train to a Bundesliga game or to Berlin and interest in the national team, always on the low side, has sunk even further following the World Cup elimination in Vienna.

Great therefore was the surprise that victory could be obtained at Hampden, the GDR's first, and probably last win in the British Isles; even greater the news of the 3-3 with Brazil.

Speculation that the Association may consider withdrawing from the European Championship qualifying competition starting this autumn has gone down badly.

Fans relish two competitive clashes between the two Germanys before fusion, so do players wanting to advertise their skills to the West.

No interest

They may no longer have any interest in representing the GDR but good displays against the Federal Republic, Wales and Belgium can provide a more than handy shop window.

Nevertheless by the time the European Championship qualifiers are under way the West German FA and East German Association will be merging into a large all-German FA and talking about a combined Olympic squad.

On the field Dynamo Dresden have got back into the driving seat at the top of the Oberliga and probably done enough to head off Magdeburg's challenge.

The fight for UEFA places continues to the bitter end with FC Karl-Marx-Stadt, soon to be Chemnitz again, looking dangerous.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

SPARTA EASE THE GLOOM

SPARTA have taken the title – as it was clear they would long before the domestic season ground to an end.

Poor crowds and no European Cup interest since the autumn have meant a dull season saved only by qualification for Italia '90.

Narrow defeat in Spain for Venglos's squad has been followed by worse at Wembley and in Brno against Egypt but there is a chance to show what the squad is really made of when the national team provides the West Germans with the opposition in Dusseldorf in one of Beckenbauer's last pre-World Cup 'Testspiele.'

Before the squad gathered for final preparations there was also the Czechoslovak Cup to decide, in Presov. It seems a strange venue, but that is where the Czech Cup winners, Dukla Prague, and Slovak cup-winners Inter Bratislava met.

The former had experienced considerable difficulty in defeating Second Division Uherske Hradiste for the Czech trophy, 5-3 whereas Inter had not been bothered by Zilina in the Slovak 'pohar' which they collected with a 6-0 win.

For most of the game the Czechoslovak Cup looked to be Dukla's. Foldyna eventually put the army side ahead but three minutes from the end Luhovy put Inter back in contention.

No further score in extra time meant penalties and Dukla won the shoot out 5-4. Inter have the consolation of the UEFA Cup, along with Banik Ostrava, who again are runners up.

Dukla's success means Bohemians, fourth in the 'tabulka', miss out on Europe in 1990/91, a pity after a much-better-than-expected campaign.

Two Slovak clubs, Spartak, Trnava, former champions, and Povaska Bystrica, promoted last year, go down, the former's spring slide meaning neighbours DAC Dunajska Streda survive.

Inter's Lubomir Luhovy's topped the goalscorers with 20.

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

AUSTRIA: National manager Josef Hickersberger says he may think again about quitting after the World Cup.

BRAZIL: Manager Sebastiao Lazaroni says Romario will be included in his World Cup squad in the hope that he will be fit in time for Italy.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he expects to make his comeback as a second-half substitute in Milan's weekend match against Verona ... Napoli report that Diego Maradona has lost one stone in the past few weeks – and will need a half-size smaller in boots! ... Urban Affairs Minister Carmelo Conte says that all stadia should be ready for the World Cup but that many subsidiary local projects will not have been completed in time ... in a rare 'early' match, Milan beat Sampdoria 1-0 with goal from Massaro.

REP. IRELAND: Frank Stapleton is dropped for the first time in 14 as Jack Charlton names his squad for the friendly against the Soviet Union.

SPAIN: Real Madrid midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez is reported close to agreeing terms for a £4million summer transfer to promotion-seeking Italian club Torino.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

ACTION: Austrian champions Tirol are set fair to retain their crown after thrashing Rapid 6-1 ... match of the season in France sees Marseille beat Bordeaux 2-0 and leapfrog to the top of the table ... Feyenoord thrash Sparta 6-1 in the Rotterdam derby. Piet Keur scores twice ... the coin-verdict puts new life into Napoli, who keep pace with Milan at the top thanks to a 3-0 home win over Bari.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

ACTION: In Argentina River Plate force a goalless draw away to nearest rivals Rosario Central to maintain a three-point lead at the top of the championship ... a goalless draw away to Valladolid ensures Real Madrid their fifth successive league title, with four rounds of the championship remaining. They hold a ten-point lead over Atletico Madrid, who beat Tenerife 2-0 ... in Turkey Besiktas beat Genclerbirligi 2-0 to power into a five-point lead over fading Fenerbahce ... tight at the top in Yugoslavia, where Dinamo lose a penalty shoot-out to Rijeka after a 1-1 draw and Red Star pull level on points thanks a shoot-out victory after a goalless draw away to Buducnost.

MONDAY, APRIL 16

WORLD CUP: Brazil name their squad of 22 for Italy – but the CBF's hopes of contesting the right to be hosts in 1998 is given short shrift by FIFA president Joao Havelange.

HOLLAND: PSV cling on by one point at the top, beating Utrecht 1-0 while a resurgent Ajax thrash Den Bosch 6-0 thanks to an Aron Winter hat-trick.

SWITZERLAND: Leaders Xamax see their lead cut to two points after a surprising 3-1 home defeat by Lausanne. Champions Luzern crash 4-0 to Lugano.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

ACTION: Mexico beat Colombia 2-0 in Los Angeles ... Fiorentina qualify for the UEFA Cup Final thanks to a goalless draw in their semi-final second leg at home to Werder Bremen. Fiorentina win on the away goals rule after forcing a 1-1 draw away in the first leg.

WORLD CUP: Austria manager Josef Hickersberger says he standing by World Cup defender Robert Pecl despite the player's expulsion in Sunday's league match between Rapid and Tirol ... organising chief Luca di Montezemolo says that all World Cup stadia will be ready for the finals but infrastructure redevelopment will be incomplete. He says: "The country has wasted its chance."

BELGIUM: The federation proposes firm suspension rules for players caught out by dope tests. They extend from a three-to-six-month ban on first offenders up to a life ban for third-time-offenders ... Anderlecht transfer-list Holland World Cup defender Adri Van Tiggelen at £700,000. Van Tiggelen wants to return to Holland after the World Cup.

EAST GERMANY: The new police union says its members are growing increasingly concerned about hooliganism now that the borders are open to West German 'rowdies.'

ITALY: Ruud Gullit is cleared by Belgian specialist Marc Martens to make a comeback in Milan's forthcoming league visit to Verona ... Juventus coach Dino Zoff criticises owner Gianni Agnelli that he learned of his impending replacement by Bologna's Gigi Maifredi through the media.

WEST GERMANY: The night's one game sees Nurnberg go down 3-1 at home to Borussia Dortmund, for whom Andy Moller scores twice.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

ACTION: In the European club semi-final second legs there are Champions' Cup successes for Milan (against Bayern) and Benfica (against Marseille); in the Cup-winners' Cup winners are Anderlecht (against Dinamo Bucharest) and Sampdoria (against Monaco). In the UEFA Cup Juventus beat Koln, then announce their impending summer purchase of the West German club's star midfielder, Thomas Hassler, for £5.5million.

Romario ... back in action.

WORLD CUP: Brazilian World Cup striker Romario says he will be fit to join the squad after all ... Austrian defender Robert Pecl is banned for the fourth time this season after his weekend expulsion ... Egypt's Gamal Abdel Hamid says he will retire from international football after the World Cup ... Argentine President Carlos Menem welcomes national manager Carlos Bilardo among guests at a presidential asado but says he has no intention of offering advice on World Cup team selection but – "the results speak for themselves. We have scored one goal in ten games." ... FIFA bans typically Italian flares and fireworks from World Cup matches.

BULGARIA: The federation scraps the Red Army Cup, which has been up for competition each season. It also legalises professional football, which means some pay rates could double by the start of next season.

GREECE: In the cup quarter-finals AEK and Panathinaikos are both comfortable winners.

HOLLAND: Thys Libregts's new attempt to bring legal proceedings against the KNVB over his national team managerial demotion, is adjourned for nearly four weeks at the federation's request.

HUNGARY: Honved, Vac, Raba ETO Gyor and Pecs reach the cup semi-finals.

ITALY: The award of a 2-0 win to Napoli for the coin-throwing match against Atalanta, is confirmed by the federation's appeals committee. Atalanta had protested.

WEST GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer marries Sybille Weimer, a former secretary with the DFB, in a ceremony at his home in Kitzbuhel ... league top scorer Jorn Andersen says he wants to quit Eintracht Frankfurt at the season's end to play in Italy.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

ACTION: Egypt conclude their West German training camp with a 2-2 draw against Heilbronn.

WORLD CUP: The Banca Nazionale di Lavoro reports that 40,000 World Cup tickets have sold in just three days.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht coach Aad de Mos says the Rumanians of Dinamo Bucharest "looked as if they were drugged" in the Cup-winners' Cup semi-final return.

ITALY: Lazio's outstanding young wing prospect, Paolo Di Canio, is close to a transfer agreement with Napoli – who would send Alemao to Lazio in part-exchange.

MALTA: Sweden's Lennart Johansson is elected new president of UEFA in succession to the retiring Jacques Georges. Italy's Antonio Matarrese is a new vice-president. A proposal by Switzerland's Freddy Rumo provides the prospect of an end to the "closed shop" television regulations.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

FRANCE: Bordeaux beat Lyon 2-0 to keep their title hopes burning.

SPAIN: La Coruna sign Bulgarian international Vladimir Stoyanov from Chernomoretz.

URUGUAY: The Montevideo "clasico" between Penarol and Nacional ends prematurely in uproar with a pitched battle in the Estadio Centenario and the referee sending off 20 players and two substitutes with ten minutes remaining.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

EGYPT: Zamalek's masseur is killed when the bus bringing the team back to Cairo from Alexandria is involved in an accident. Some 16 other passengers are hurt, including ten players and their Brazilian coach, Joao Carlos

PORTUGAL: Yugoslav World Cup keeper Tomislav Ivkovic agrees to extend his contract with Sporting until 1995 – despite transfer contacts with Barcelona and Benfica.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich's lead is now five points. They are held 0-0 at home by Fortuna but benefit from defeats for pursuers Koln and Leverkusen.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

ACTION: The United States lose 1-0 to Colombia in Miami.

BRAZIL: Flamengo win 2-0 against Bangu but remain two points adrift of local rivals and leaders Fluminense. If Fluminense had beaten Americano they would have ensured a place in the Rio championship play-offs.

GREECE: Panathinaikos stay top by defeating Xanthi 3-1 in a match which includes four penalties.

ITALY: Milan blow their championship chance in stormy style. They lose 2-1 to Verona and have Van Basten, Rijkaard, Costacurta and coach Arrigo Sacchi all sent off. Napoli grab a two-point advantage thanks to a 4-2 win over Bologna which virtually ensures Maradona and Co the league title.

PORTUGAL: Benfica midfield Vitor Paneira is in hospital as a precaution after injuring his neck in a fall in a 1-1 draw against Feirense.

SPAIN: Real Madrid are surprisingly held 3-3 at home by Logrones but those three goals lift Madrid one better than Barcelona 96-goal record from 1958-59.

RED STAR won the league and cup double in Yugoslavia - but the season ended amid chaos and recrimination after the Maksimir stadium riot in Zagreb when there were 100 injuries and 50 arrests before the scheduled match between Dinamo and Red Star.

It was remarkable that no-one was killed during the trouble. Red Star were already sure of the league crown before the game. No-one dared speculate on what might have happened had Dinamo still been in contention for the title. The federation later awarded the match to Red Star 3-0, blaming Dinamo for a failure to maintain security in the stadium.

Comment abroad on political overtones, from the Serb-Croat rivalry, were off the mark. A couple of weeks earlier the Dinamo hooligans - the 'Bad Boys in Blue' - had wrecked the stadium in Ljubljana where there was no political issue.

Television pictures of the Zagreb riot were shown around the world - including a notorious clip of Dinamo star Zbonimir Boban kicking a policeman, who lost three teeth in the incident. This was the third time this past season that Boban had involved in confrontations with the police and public outrage forced national manager Ivica Osim to drop him from the World Cup squad.

The cup final went off peacefully. Red Star beat Hajduk Split 1-0 in front of a 35,000 crowd in Belgrade. World Cup striker Darko Pancev scored the goal. But Yugoslavia will have no entry in next season's Cup-winners' Cup because Red Star will be in the Champions' Cup and Hajduk are still serving a European ban.

Former champions Sarajevo may have been relegated along with Vardar Skopje. No-one yet knows. Sarajevo have protested to the federation about a disciplinary decision to award Dinamo a 3-0 verdict for a match which was abandoned when referee Zoran Petrovic was struck in the face by a full beer can.

Sarajevo say the match should have been awarded to them - since they were leading 1-0 at the time so none of their fans had any interest in the game being halted.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

WORLD CUP: Marco Van Basten slams ex-manager Rinus Michels for recommending the appointment of Leo Beenhakker as Holland's World Cup boss rather than Johan Cruyff ... West German star Thomas Hassler is subject to kidnap threats as he prepares with the national squad for the friendly against Uruguay ... Colombia manager Francisco Maturana admits that many of his stars are part-paid by "outside sources" ... five of Brazil's squad of 22 are missing at the scheduled start of warm-up work.

EAST GERMANY: FC Berlin (ex-Dynamo), Union Berlin and Hertha (from the West) join together to plan to beat hooligan violence. East German 'rowdies' are expected to cross to the West at the weekend to cause trouble at Hertha's second division match against Eintracht Braunschweig.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich say they are planning to go public, selling shares on the West German stock exchange in a bid to revolutionise the club's finances so they can compete with Italian, French and Spanish clubs in the international transfer market.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

ACTION: England beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 in a B game at Sunderland; in another B game, Scotland lose 2-1 to East Germany in Perth ... in an under-23 game, the Irish Republic are held 1-1 by Malta.

WORLD CUP: Argentina bring nine home-based players with them on their pre-finals European tour ... Brazil threaten to drop Mozer from their squad if Marseille do not release him before the French cup final on June 2. FIFA president Joao Havelange offers to intervene in the growing dispute being Brazil manager Sebastiao Lazaroni and the European clubs to whom most of his stars are contracted ... Egypt manager Mahmoud El Gohari says he is considering a recall for veteran goalkeeper Thabet El Battal, 37.

AUSTRIA: FK Austria beat Vienna 1-0 in the cup semi-finals and Rapid beat Spittal 3-1. The final is on May 12.

ENGLAND: The government announces that fans convicted of soccer-related violence will have to report to police stations near their homes whenever England or Wales play abroad.

HOLLAND: Ajax beat Den Haag 1-0 with a third-minute goal from Van't Schip to go two points of PSV at the top. Both have now played 32 games.

ITALY: Napoli deny new reports that Diego Maradona wants to leave immediately after the World Cup. Maradona says: "These stories are nonsense. I want to win the European Cup next season."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

ACTION: A busy international night: England beat Czechoslovakia 4-2; Rumania beat Israel 4-1; the Irish Republic beat a half-strength Soviet Union 1-0; East Germany win 1-0 against Scotland at Hampden; Sweden beat Wales 4-2; West Germany and Uruguay draw 3-3 after an exciting second-half in Stuttgart.

WORLD CUP: Leo Beenhakker agrees formally to become Holland's World Cup manager ... Argentina arrive in Italy to begin their warm-up work ... Brazil coach Sebastiao Lazaroni will coach Fiorentina next season, according to Claudio Pontello, a member of the club's owning family ... Austria star Gerhard Rodax finds himself caught in a legal dispute over the identity of his personal manager. Three months ago Rodax signed with Telemundi but former manager Josef Schulz claims his contract with Rodax is still valid ... Austria manager Josef Hickersberger says he is writing a World Cup manual because "my successors will need it." ... West Germany's squad join the anti-drugs campaign and will wear a slogan on their track suits.

AUSTRIA: Vienna coach Ernst Dokupil signs for two years with St Polten.

ITALY: Frank Rijkaard is suspended for five matches, Costacurta for two amd Van Basten for one game after their Milan's compound expulsions at Verona. Coach Arrigo Sacchi is cautioned and fined £800 ... Roma agree a transfer option on Kiev midfielder Alexei Mikhailichenko ... Genoa and Inter draw 0-0 in a replay of a league game which was abandoned because of heavy rain.

PORTUGAL: Porto beat Amadora 2-0 in a full league programme to maintain their five-point lead over Benfica at the top. Madjer and Aguas score the goals.

SPAIN: Real Madrid win 2-0 away to Osasuna to maintain a ten-point lead over Atletico Madrid at the top. Martin Vazquez scores both goals.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshoppers win 1-0 away to St Gallen to pull within one point of Xamax.

YUGOSLAVIA: Hooligan trouble in Sarajevo: the home team are 1-0 up against Dinamo Zagreb just before half-time when World Cup refereee Zoran Petrovic is struck in the face and injured by a beer can. The match is abandoned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

WORLD CUP: Marco Van Basten apologises for his earlier criticisms of Rinus Michels, who had threatened not to accompany Holland to the World Cup finals unless the Milan star withdrew his attack. Ruud Gullit critises Van Basten, saying the whole episode "is becoming too ridiculous." ... organising chief Luca di Montezemolo says he is in favour of a minute's silence at the start of the finals as a tribute to the constructions workers who have been killed in redevelopment work accidents ... Egypt say that attempts to arrange warm-up matches against Austria and Switzerland have fallen through ... Brazil manager Lazaroni warns that Sweden could be World Cup dark horses.

ARGENTINA: River Plate move closer to the title with a 5-1 thrashing over struggling Deportivo Espanol.

BELGIUM: FC Liege agree to buy Hungarian midfielder Gyorgy Bognar from Toulon.

ITALY: Fiorentina are banned from staging the final of the UEFA Cup against Juventus within a 300km radius of Perugia because of crowd trouble at the semi-final against Werder Bremen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

WORLD CUP: Brazil are left with only seven players for preparation work after more stars return to their clubs ... Holland are on £50,000 each to win the World Cup ... West German team chief Franz Beckenbauer says he may take up a marketing role with the federation when his contract ends after the World Cup.

EGYPT: Abdou Saleh El Wahesh, president of Al Ahly, says that the federation are considering lifting the ban on foreign players. He says: "We need that kind of player competition to revive the game in Egypt."

ITALY: Uruguayan World Cup forward Carlos Aguilera is arrested in Genoa by Italian police in connection with a prostitution ring inquiry.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's disciplinary punishments include a Champions' Cup Final ban on Benfica skipper Antonio Veloso, a Cup-winners' Cup Final ban on Anderlecht's Henrik Andersen. Hooligan trouble fines are levied on Juventus, Benfica, Milan and Dinamo Bucharest. Dinamo's Florin Raducoiu is banned for five games after being sent off in the Cup-winners' Cup; team-mate Michael Klein is banned for four games.

YUGOSLAVIA: Partizan dismiss coach Ivan Golac and appoint Nenad Bjekovic, sacked last month by Nice.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

WORLD CUP: No fewer than 12 players fail to turn up in time for the flight as the United Arab Emirates squad sets off for a warm-up session in France. Only two had been given permission to travel later – because they wanted to attend their sister's wedding.

AUSTRIA: Tirol win 4-0 away to Vienna and lead FK Austria by two points.

Johan Cruyff

BULGARIA: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff says CSKA star Hristo Stoichkov and his club have agreed a transfer and four-year contract.

EAST GERMANY: Hooligan trouble as a train conductor is injured and a coach wrecked by fans travelling to watch FC Berlin in Dresden. Dresden win the match 6-1 to remain one point behind leaders Magdeburg.

FRANCE: Marseille move closer to retain the league title. They win 3-1 over struggling Mulhouse while pursuers Bordeaux concede two goals in the last eight minutes and go down 2-1 away to Nantes.

ITALY: Genoa's Uruguay star Carlos Aguilera is granted "house arrest bail" on charges of abetting a prostitution racket ... in an advanced league match, Juventus – playing this coming week in the UEFA Cup Final, beat Lecce 3-2. Sasha Zavarov scores on what is likely to be his last league appearance for Juve.

NORTH KOREA: The federation announces plans for an international tournament, with a £14,000 prize for the winners, to be held in Pyongyang.

SPAIN: Real Madrid become the first club ever to reach 100 league goals in a season when they draw 3-3 away to neighbours Atletico in the capital derby. Second-half goals by Losada and Hierro pull Real back from 3-1 down.

SWITZERLAND: Leaders Xamax crash 3-0 at home to St Gallen but stay top because Grasshoppers lose 2-1 away to Lausanne – who now move up into joint second place.

WEST GERMANY: Hermann Neuberger, president of the DFB, says a merging of the East and West German championships is only a matter of time. He says joint championship and cup competitions should start in 1992-93 ... Bayern Munich maintain their five-point lead thanks to a goalless draw away to Leverkusen.

Stand by your videos!

ONE World Cup record which will get an airing only on one TV channel belongs to Eurosport, the Astra satellite station. Eurosport will be showing all 280,800 seconds of World Cup action – plus whatever extra time is needed as well as penalty shoot-outs. Where two matches take simultaneously, Eurosport will stick with one then run the other in its entirety.

Could do a lot for the sales of blank video tapes!

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

WORLD CUP: Brazil coach Sebastiao Lazaroni says he will resign after the finals.

ARGENTINA: Independiente beat Racing Cordoba 2-1 but are still three points behind leaders River Plate.

BELGIUM: Brugge win 2-0 away to local rivals Cercle to virtually secure the title. Antwerp, thanks to a hat-trick from Nico Claesen, thrash Waregem 4-0 on the day the club confirms a year-long ban on midfielder Patrick Schrooten, who had tested positive for drugs after the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Koln.

BRAZIL: Bebeto pulls a thigh muscle playing for Vasco da Gama in a Rio championship match against Bangu and will miss Saturday's friendly against Bulgaria. Vasco lose 2-1. Fluminense and Botafogo qualify to join Vasco in the title play-offs.

GREECE: Polish star Krzystof Warzycha scores four times as leaders Panathinaikos thrash Levadiakos 6-2.

HOLLAND: Ajax and PSV both draw so Ajax maintain their two-point lead with one game to go. Also, Ajax officially appeal for UEFA to withdraw their one-year European ban.

ITALY: On the last day of the Italian first division programme Napoli celebrate their second championship in three years thanks to a 1-0 home win over Lazio. Marco Baroni scores the all-important goal after only seven minutes' play.

NORWAY: The new league season opens with the penalty shoot-outs scrapped and three-points-for-a-win introduced instead.

PORTUGAL: Porto miss their first chance to clinch the league title as they lose 1-0 away to Belenenses but Benfica miss the chance to narrow the gap – losing by the same margin away to Boavista.

SPAIN: Celta lose 2-1 at home to Valencia on the penultimate day of the season and are condemned to the certainty of relegation. Barcelona beat Bilbao 4-2 to move up into second place, thus overtaking Atletico Madrid.

SWEDEN: Norrkoping win 4-1 away to AIK to move one point clear of GAIS at the top of the league after four rounds of the championship.

TURKEY: Alan Walsh scores from a free kick after only three minutes as Besiktas beat neighbours Zeytinburnu 3-0 to maintain a three-point top-of-the-table lead over Fenerbahce.

MONDAY, APRIL 30

WORLD CUP: Italy name their squad of 22 with strikers Mancini and Serena both

CONTINUED OVER

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

CONTINUED

included but Napoli midfielder Luca Fusi left out ... Diego Maradona is offered a £14,000 appearance 'bonus' by sportswear firm Puma to turn out for Argentina this week against Austria.

ITALY: New champions Napoli extend the contract of Brazil midfielder Alemao for a further two years.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

ACTION: Real Madrid beat Milan 2-1 in the Jose Camacho Farewell/testimonial match in the Estadio Bernabeu.

WORLD CUP: Costa Rica name their 22-strong squad with string of newcomers introduced by new boss Bora Milutinovic.

BELGIUM: Mechelen, beaten in the Champions' Cup quarter-finals and having lost the Belgian championship, announce major personnel changes. Dutch stars Erwin Koeman and John Bosman are both expected to be sold to PSV Eindhoven with Dutch defender Graeme Rutjes favoured to join Anderlecht ... Antwerp appeal to UEFA against the 15-month ban imposed on midfielder Patrick Schrooten for drug-taking.

ENGLAND: Former Swindon and West Ham manager Lou Macari is questioned by police about alleged tax offences. Also questioned are Swindon captain Colin Calderwood, former chairman Brian Hillier and accountant Vincent Farrar.

FRANCE: Nantes recall midfielder Jorge Burruchaga from his training work with Argentina, so he can play in the weekend's league match against Paris Saint-Germain. Burruchaga is leaving Nantes at the season's end but president Max Bouyer says: "We have a one-in-a-hundred chance of qualifying for the European Cup so we must give it all we've got."

FRANCE: Racing surprisingly beat Bordeaux 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw to earn a place in the cup semi-finals against holders Marseille.

POLAND: No change in the exciting championship race. Lech Poznan (winners by 1-0 away to Gornik) and GKS Katowice (winners by 1-0 away to Stal Mielec) remain joint top on 36 points. Zaglebie Lubin (winners 1-0 at home to fourth-placed Zawisza Bydgoszcz) remain one point behind.

WEST GERMANY: Falko Gotz scores a hat-trick at Koln thrash struggling Waldhof-Mannheim 6-0.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

ACTION: Juventus beat Fiorentina 3-1 in the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final – the last match Juve will play in the old Stadio Comunale in Turin.

WORLD CUP: Uruguay midfielder Ruben Pereira injures his knee in training and may be doubtful for the finals ... the pitch at the Stadio Meazza in Milan is relaid in record time ... Egypt are to try to arrange a warm-up against Colombia after Wales withdraw from a planned match.

ARGENTINA: River Plate stretch their lead to five points. They beat FC Oeste 3-1 while pursuers Independiente lose 2-1 away to Rosario Central – who thus pull level in joint second place. Instituto Cordoba are virtually certain for relegation after losing 2-0 away to Platense.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Sparta beat Dukla 4-0 to establish an unbeatable five-point lead at the top of the table with two games to go.

ENGLAND: The government announes that fans convicted of World Cup hooligan offences could be subject to travel bans of up to two years.

ITALY: Milan must play their first home game next season on neutral territory because their fans bombarded the referee with missiles during the home leg of the Italian cup final against Juventus. Skipper Franco Baresi is suspended for one game for rough play.

SOVIET UNION: Hooligan trouble in Uzbekistan where fans rampage through the town of Andizhan, damaging more than 100 buildings, after Pakhtakhor Tashkent pull out of a game against home team Spartak ... Kiev thrash Lokomotiv Moscow 6-1 in the cup final. Oleg Salenko scores a hat-trick which might just earn him a late promotion to the World Cup squad.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich beat St Pauli 1-0 with a 16th-minute goal from Pflugler to secure their 12th championship with two championship rounds remaining.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

ACTION: Austria and Argentina draw 1-1 in Vienna ... Uruguay beat Padova 4-1 in a friendly.

WORLD CUP: Uruguay's Carlos Aguilera is to be released from house arrest, according to Genoa's public prosecutor. Midfielder Ruben Pereira is not as badly injured as had been feared and is expected to be fit in time for the finals ... Rumania's federation formally asks Red Star Belgrade sweeper Miodrag Belodedici if he will make himself available for the World Cup squad ... FIFA announce that stadium clocks must be turned off during World Cup matches ... ISL Marketing, FIFA's commercial agents, estimate that 26billion viewers worldwide will watch the finals on television ... West Germany name a preliminary squad of 27.

BULGARIA: CSKA star Hristo Srtoichkov signs a five-year, £2.8million contract with Barcelona.

EAST GERMANY: Dresden star forward Ulf Kirsten signs a two-year contract with Bayer Leverkusen of West Germany – who already have East Germany's top player, Andreas Thom, on their books.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

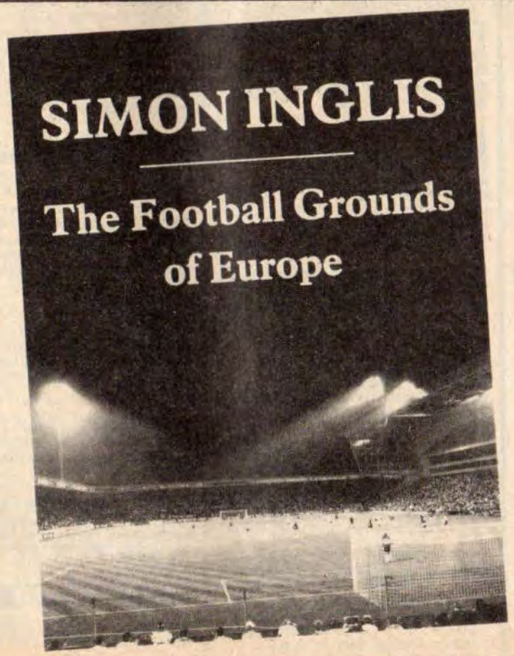
WORLD CUP: Czechoslovakia name their World Cup 22, which includes former defectors Kubik and Knoflicek, despite reservations on their inclusion among some of the other players ... Rumania ask FIFA for permission to include Belodedici in their squad even though he now holds a Yugoslav passport and has refused to travel to Bucharest to train with the squad ... goalkeeper David Vanole is welcomed back into the United States World Cup squad after resolution of a contract dispute ... the UAE players will be on an £8,000 bonus for every victory at the World Cup finals and £4,000 bonus for each draw ... hotel staff unions and other tourism workers agree new employment contracts which lifts World Cup strike fears.

AUSTRIA: Admira striker Gerhard Rodax says he hopes to transfer, before the World Cup finals, to a Spanish club; he does not fancy playing in either Italy or West Germany. Atletico Madrid are favourites ... Herbert Prohaska extends his coaching contract with FK Austria for one further season.

BELGIUM: FC Liege agree to sign Australian international striker Eddy Krncevic from relegation-bound French club Mulhouse.

FRANCE: France goalkeeper Gilles Rousset is sold by Sochaux to Lyon – who also hope to sign Paraguay striker Roberto Cabanas from Brest.

Take your seats for Italia '90



Whether it be an armchair in front of the TV or a seat at one of Italy's breathtaking World Cup stadiums, make sure you have to hand a copy of a fascinating new book by Simon Inglis, **The Football Grounds of Europe**.

Packed with detailed information on all 12 World Cup venues, you can discover why Cagliari's Sant'Elia Stadium has a wooden roof and why Genoa's was nicknamed 'the stadium of the blind'.

From Rome to Reykjavik, from Lisbon to Leningrad, Britain's leading expert on football grounds takes us on a grand tour of nearly 200 leading European venues, describing not only their history and design, but also their sporting and social significance.

The Football Grounds of Europe is an essential guide for all serious football fans, and will enhance your enjoyment of not only the World Cup but European football for the 1990s.

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£14.95 hardback.

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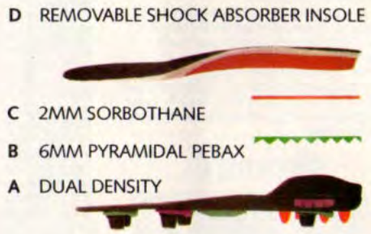

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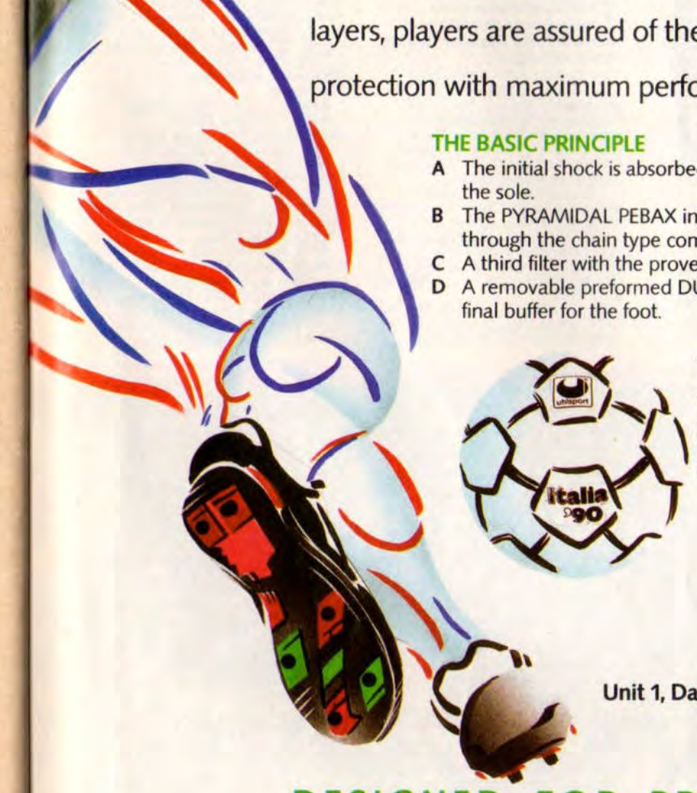

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DESIGNED FOR PROFESSIONALS

BARNES IS THE MAN OF THE MOMENT

BY DERICK ALLSOP

ENGLAND has familiar winners in the League Championship and the Littlewoods Cup, but a new hero to crow about on the international scene.

Liverpool secured their 18th First Division title when they beat Queens Park Rangers 2-1 at Anfield and closest challengers Aston Villa were held 3-3 by Norwich City at Villa Park.

Nottingham Forest retained the Littlewoods Cup and equalled Liverpool's record of four successes in the competition by defeating Second Division Oldham Athletic 1-0 in the Wembley sunshine.

A weekend of decisive domestic action followed another victory for England as they continued their countdown to the World Cup finals in Italy. They maintained their encouraging run with a 4-2 home win against Czechoslovakia, highlighted by the dazzling performance of Paul Gascoigne.

Strength

Liverpool's football may not have been as consistently dazzling as in seasons past, yet ultimately proved too potent for Villa and the rest. They had the strength and nerve to negotiate the closing stages of the Championship with unrivalled assurance and took the crown with two matches to spare.

It was, fittingly, John Barnes who slid in the penalty to give the side their winning goal against Rangers. Forty-eight hours earlier the England man had been named Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association.

Barnes becomes only the fifth player – after Sir Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney, Danny Blanchflower and his boss Kenny Dalglish – to top the poll twice. He beat his Liverpool captain Alan Hansen by a single vote, with Gary Lineker third.

Barnes's match-winning ability and Hansen's cool command have been crucial factors in Liverpool's triumphant campaign. So have Ian Rush's scoring touch and Israeli Ronny Rosenthal's explosive arrival.

Individual brilliance has often salvaged the cause when collectively the team haven't been at their best. The football hasn't always been so fluent and at the back they are undoubtedly vulnerable in the air. There are, however, no sides in the land good enough to exploit those weaknesses. A sad indictment, indeed. The fact is that Liverpool are still out in front as far as the English game is concerned.

The indications are that next season we may find out where they stand in Europe, though the taciturn Dalglish was reluctant to consider the prospect. He said: "If they don't want to let us in the European Cup it's up to them. The League title is good enough for me. My lads have nothing to prove to anyone."

The return of English clubs to European competition will be sanctioned or blocked after the World Cup. The decision effectively rests with the England fans and the British Government.

Liverpool's fate may well influence the course of Barnes' future. Reports from Spain suggested Real Madrid manager John Toshack was close to securing Barnes' transfer from his former club in a £5 million deal.

The story met with firm denials from Anfield the following day. Barnes insisted he intended to see out the remaining year of his contract and Liverpool's new chairman Noel White revealed that keeping the England forward was his priority on succeeding the retiring Sir John Smith.

Despite Villa's late stumble in the Championship, manager Graham Taylor demanded a champagne celebration. He said:

"Congratulations to Liverpool, but there's no reason why we shouldn't also enjoy ourselves. We thoroughly deserve to finish runners-up."

Forest's League season has been nothing to toast and they were knocked out of the FA Cup at the third round stage by Manchester United. The League Cup (now Littlewoods Cup) however, has again been a different matter. In the final they met a side that had captivated the nation with their audacious exploits in two Cup competitions as well as a bid for promotion to the First Division.

Alas for Oldham, the hectic schedule began to take its inevitable toll. They were knocked out of the FA Cup after extra time in their epic semi-final replay with Manchester United and lost momentum in their League programme.

Relieved

At Wembley they had the better of the first half and Forest were probably relieved to reach the interval unscathed. Andy Ritchie had a shot tipped over by goalkeeper Steve Sutton and Rick Holden's volley was blocked. In the 48th minute Forest's attack had more luck. Nigel Clough sent through his partner Nigel Jemson and although Oldham goalkeeper Andy Rhodes saved the initial shot, the striker scored from the rebound.

Oldham mounted a spirited assault and Sutton made a magnificent, clawing save to deny substitute Roger Palmer an equaliser.

Earl Barrett, who cost Oldham a mere £30,000 from Manchester City, had another outstanding game yet it was the central defensive play of England's Des Walker which earned the Alan Hardaker Trophy for man of the match.

Oldham manager Joe Royle, who turned down the opportunity of taking over at his former club Manchester City earlier this season, said: "I felt we could have played better in certain areas. But this was our 61st game of the season and I think there were signs of that. We didn't fall down on lack of ability and now we just have to try and re-charge the batteries."

WALES BY MEL AP IOR THOMAS

THE FA of Wales have announced the 16 clubs that will form the new Cymru Alliance League.

As an interim step towards a fully national First Division planned for 1992-93, the Cymru Alliance will form a northern regional First Division with the already long-established Abacus League National Division forming its southern counterpart.

A play-off will then decide the inaugural Welsh Champions when at the end of next season the winners of these two Leagues will play each other for the title.

The line-ups in each of the regional Leagues will be as follows for 1990/91.

Cymru Alliance: Nantlle Vale, CPD Porthmadog, Conwy United, Connah's Quay Nomads, Fflint Town United, Holywell Town, Bethesda Athletic, Caersws FC, Penrhyncoch, Welshpool Town, Carno FC, Llanidloes Town, Lex XI FC, Gresford Athletic, Mold Alexandra, and Brymbo Steelworks.

Abacus League: Haverfordwest County, Cwmbran Town, Abergavenny Thursdays, Llanelli, Aberystwyth Town, Briton Ferry Athletic, Pembroke Borough, Ton Pentre FC, AFC Cardiff, Bridgend Town, Port Talbot Athletic, Brecon Corinthians, Ammanford Town, Maesteg Park, Ferndale Athletic, Afan Lido Port Talbot.

AFC Cardiff are negotiating with Sully FC from the Premier Division regarding an amalgamation forming Inter Cardiff. The final Abacus League line-up may alter slightly depending on promotion/ground criteria assessments.

Fergie's gamble

ONE of the most remarkable selection gambles in FA Cup Final history was rewarded when Alex Ferguson's Manchester United beat Crystal Palace 1-0 in a rugged Wembley replay.

Ferguson's decision to drop Scotland World Cup keeper Jim Leighton in favour of unemployed Les Sealey could have proved disastrous. Palace gave the ex-Luton keeper a rough old time of it. But he came through bravely and helped inspire the victory earned by Lee Martin's second-half conversion of Neil Webb's pass.

In the original, poor-quality but dramatic 3-3 draw Palace had clung on in the final stages of extra time through sheer guts. A lack of reserves in both class and stamina was cruelly exposed, however, by the demands of the replay. This time there was no two-goal explosion from substitute Ian Wright and United duly equalled Aston Villa and Tottenham's record of seven FA Cup wins.

After the match Sealey – whose loan had been reconstituted at the start of the week, and who had played only twice previously for United and not at all for Luton this past season – presented Leighton with his medal.

Ferguson thus became the first post-war manager to have won the cup in both Scotland and England. Coincidentally, his old club, Aberdeen, won the Scottish Cup when they beat Celtic 9-8 on penalties after a goalless draw.

McKimmie boost for Roxburgh

BY ALEX GORDON

SO, that's us world champions again, is it?" The voice travelled along the Hampden Press Box minutes after the 1-0 triumph over Argentina.

There may have been no actual award ceremony. The world's press might not actually have been there to record the moment. But that didn't matter. As in 1967 after a small set-to with another set of global masters at Wembley, Scotland had beaten the holders and, therefore, it was only right that the glittering prize should be handed over forthwith.

If only it were so simple:

Diego Maradona had decided it was better to hotfoot it to Hong Kong for a £1 million advertising arrangement rather than take the risk of a biting Alex McLeish tackle at Hampden and Argentina without Maradona is about as useful as a Rolls-Royce without an engine. It might still be pretty to look at and its class is undoubted, but it's not much use.

Argentina at Hampden could have been Paraguay or some nation of that ilk. They meandered around, a little bit of skill here, a little bit of trickery there, the odd snarl to remind us of times gone by. But their teeth had been removed.

Victory

All credit to Scotland, though. They deserved their victory. Maybe now grown men in this country will stop weeping uncontrollably at the mere mention of Argentina when memories of 1978 activate thoughts of mass suicide.

Andy Roxburgh had the courage of his convictions to shake up the side, dropping regulars such as Roy Aitken, Mo Johnson and Ally McCoist while bringing in Stuart McCall, Craig Levein, Alan McInally and Robert Fleck.

Jim Leighton would have been watching from the sidelines, too, if Andy Goram hadn't broken a finger in a freak accident during training when he stopped a shot from Roy Aitken. Mind you, Andy could have faced the South Americans with his arm in a sling and still come off with a clean sheet.

The goal was scored by Stewart McKimmie. That was a feat so rare that everyone was asking when he last scored at all. It was five years ago against Clydebank! It's extremely doubtful whether he will get into double figures in his career.

Anyway, the perky Aberdeen right-back is a player whose ability I have advocated long and loud in the past, as readers of this column will testify. He is a full-back much in the mould of Dundee United's Maurice Malpas who goes about his work with admirable diligence and is more likely to set up chances for his forwards rather than have a go himself.

The goal was excellently worked with considerable speed down the left flank with Robert Fleck and Murdo MacLeod combining. A high ball was fired into the penalty area where McInally made a nuisance of himself. It broke free, McCall directed it across the penalty area and, lo and behold, there was McKimmie steaming in at a great rate of knots to strike it perfectly, high and angled past the helpless Nery Pumpido.

Good news was the calm authority of Hearts' talented Craig Levein in central defence. Playing alongside the excellent McLeish and Richard Gough, he rarely broke sweat and certainly looked the part. He displayed the talent and the composure he does each week in a Hearts jersey.

Stuart McCall's blistering first-half evoked memories of bristling Billy Bremner, but the Everton youngster did too much too soon and paid the price in the second-half when the pace was upped. Still, Roxburgh was pleased with his contribution. "Stuart was so eager to please that he condensed a full game into the opening 45 minutes. In the second-half he blew out. But, again, there was a lot to be encouraged about."

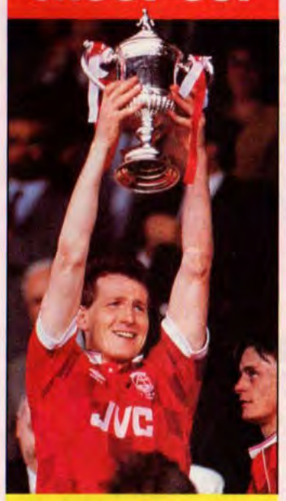
All in all a good evening's work. There was nothing to suggest that Scotland will be participating in Rome on the evening of July 8, but, also, there was little to offer up dark thoughts that a humiliation was just around the corner.

Until of course, May 16th when Eygpt sent out a World Cup warning to their Group opponents England and the Republic of Ireland with a morale-boosting 3-1 victory before a capacity 23,000 crowd at Aberdeen. Although Scotland looked tired after a long domestic season, there can be no excuse for such a poor performance.

I have to agree with Rangers' championship-winning Graeme Souness when he says such stifling tactics in the Premier Division do little or nothing to aid adventure or flair. And you can't accuse the former Scotland inspiration of sour grapes – he made that particular comment on a day when his club had all but wrapped up the title.

A rare sight ... McKimmie's match-winner against Argentina.

DONS ON A SHOOT-OUT



Brian Irvine clinched Aberdeen's second trophy triumph of the season when he scored the all-important penalty in the dramatic and controversial shoot-out against Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park. The other hero for the Skol Cup holders was Theo Snelders who saved the decisive penalty from Anton Rogan.

Away-day triumph for St. Patrick's

BY SEAN CREEDON

ST. PATRICK'S Athletic, the friendly club from Inchicore in South Dublin are the Opel League of Ireland Premier Division Champions for the first time since 1956.

The Saints took the title from Derry City after an exciting 33 match campaign where all 12 clubs played each other three times. St Pat's won two and drew one of their games with the outgoing champions and thoroughly deserved their win.

Ironically St Patrick's success came while playing away from home. After finally deciding to get rid of the notorious slope at their own Richard Park, the Saints played all their home games at Harold's Cross Stadium (Manager Brian Kerr has always maintained that playing Inchicore was of no benefit to his players. How right he was. His team played some great football at their temporary home in Harold's Cross, where they lost only once in the League.

Shocked

It was in fact a bad season for Derry, losing all three of the trophies they won in 1988-89. They lost the Opel League Cup Final in a shoot-out to Dundalk and were shocked by Bray Wanderers in the semi-final of the FAI Cup.

Bray, who had just missed out on promotion to the Premier Division for the second successive season, went on to beat non-League St Francis 3-0 in the Final at Lansdowne Road.

The FAI were fully vindicated in their decision to switch the Cup Final from its traditional venue of Dalymount Park. Originally they planned to open only the two stands at Lansdowne, but over 25,000 fans turned up and they had to allow the crowds spill on to the terraces. It was the biggest crowd at a Cup Final since 1969 and John Ryan's hat-trick was only the second in the history of the Cup.

St Francis, who were founded 32 years ago in the Liberties area of old Dublin, were the first non-League team since 1927 to reach the Cup Final. On route they knocked out four League of Ireland clubs – Kilkenny City, Cobh Ramblers, Newcastle West and Bohemians.

Lee Martin's first goal of the season proved vital for Manchester United.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Week ending May 6

AUSTRIA

Tirol 5 (Danek 9, 63pen, 86pen, Hortnagl 58, Pacult 67), Austria Salzburg 2 (Polak 15, 27). Att: 10,000.
Admira 1 (W Knaller 15), FK Austria 0. Att: 1,500.
Rapid 6 (Herzog 2, 43pen, Kienast 12, Pfeifenberger 24, Keglevits 25, Wurz 57), St Polten 3 (E Ogris 17, 63, Kempes 61). Att: 3,000.
Sturm Graz 1 (Diaz 50), Vienna 2 (Balzis 83, Schober 89). Att: 1,500.

BELGIUM

Waregem 2 (Teppers 50, Niederbacher 66), Racing 1 (De Coninck 84). Att: 2,500.
FC Liege 4 (Ernes 56, Milosevic 77, Malbasa 79, Varga 87), Lokeren 0. Att: 4,000.
Beveren 1 (Van der Heijden 29), Anderlecht 1 (Jankovic 44pen). Att: 8,000.
Lierse 1 (Zovko 80pen), Cercle 3 (Weber 5, 12, Poorteman 90). Att: 3,000.
Brugge 3 (Ceulemans 6, Farina 42, Booy 81), St Truiden 0. Att: 30,000.
Ekeren 0, Beerschot 1 (Talbut 78pen). Att: 3,000.
Gent 5 (Soudan 15, 44, 60, Winkels 22, Veyt 89pen), Standard 1 (Molnar 42). Att: 7,000.
Mechelen 1 (B Versavel 47), Kortrijk 0. Att: 6,500.
Antwerp 3 (Claesen 1, 85, Brockaert 76), Charleroi 0. Att: 3,500.

FRANCE

Midweek
Cup qtr-fnls: Racing Paris 1, Bordeaux 1 (5-4 pens); Marseille 3, Cannes 0 (aet); Mulhouse 2, Saint-Etienne 2 (6-7pens); Avignon 0, Montpellier 1.
* Holders Bordeaux eliminated.
Weekend:
Auxerre 0, Marseille 2 (Francescoli 78, Papin 85). Att: 20,000.
Bordeaux 2 (Ferrari 30, Allofs 35), Toulouse 1 (Passi 41). Att: 15,000.
Brest 1 (Ferrer 1pen), Montpellier 1 (Cantona 19). Att: 7,000.
Caen 1 (Divert 63), Racing 0. Att: 8,000.
Cannes 1 (Mengual 43), Nice 0. Att: 5,000.
Monaco 1 (Clement 67), Metz 0. Att: 2,000.
Mulhouse 4 (Priou 2, 88, Krncevic 24pen, Sliskovic 81), Lyon 4 (Bouafia 3, Kabongo 11, 86pen, Debrosse 57). Att: 4,000.
Paris SG 2 (Zlatko Vujovic 50, Simba 60), Nantes 2 (Eydelie 14, Henry 35). Att: 15,000.
Saint-Etienne 0, Sochaux 2 (Lada 50, 78). Att: 7,000.
Toulon 1 (Bursac 23pen), Lille 1 (Angloma 40). Att: 5,000.

GREECE

Midweek:
Panathinaikos 6, Levadiakos 2.
Aris 2, Olympiakos 1.
Xanthi 0, AEK 1.
Irakis 1, Panionios 0.
Volos 1, Apollon 0.
Larissa 1, Doxa Drama 0.
Ionikos 0, Kalamaria 0.
Ethnikos 1, OFI 0.
Serres 0, PAOK 0.
Weekend:
Levadiakos 1, Olympiakos 0.
AEK 1, Panathinaikos 1.
Panionios 1, Aris 1.
Apollon 3, Xanthi 0.
Doxa 3, Iraklis 1.
Kalamaria 2, Volos 1.
OFi 4, Larissa 1.
PAOK 0, Ionikos 0.
Ethnikos 0, Serres 0.

HOLLAND

Midweek:
Volendam 1 (Berghuis 34), Utrecht 0. Att: 5,000.
Haarlem 1 (Numan 33), Den Haag 2 (Schellevis 11, Van der Laan 89). Att: 800.
Weekend:
NEC 1 (Van der Gang 19), Ajax 1 (Jonk 35). Att: 22,000.
Fortuna 4 (Farrington 10, 17, 57, 67), Volendam 1 (Steur 77). Att: 3,000.
Feyenoord 5 (Keur 9pen, 24, 52, Krommendijk 63, Metgod 72), PKC 0. Att: 7,422.
Haarlem 0, PSV 2 (Kieft 25, Vanenburg 60). Att: 3,000.
Groningen 5 (Ten Caat 6, Eijkelkamp 20, 39, 44, Meijer 36), MVV 2 (Francois 49, Lanckohr 77). Att: 7,366.
Den Bosch 4 (Van de Wiel 25, 28, De Gier 41, 85), Twente 2 (Gaasbeek 12, Ter Avest 58). Att: 2,500.
Willem II 1 (Brocken 44), Sparta 12 (Helder 83). Att: 6,700.
Roda 3 (Van Loen 9pen, 30, Van de Luer 28), Den Haag 1 (Van der Laan 74). Att: 6,700.
Utrecht 1 (Willaarts 53), Vitesse 2 (Hilgers 28, Van den Brom 36). Att: 6,000.

PORTUGAL

Porto 1 (Jorge Couto 19), Setubal 0.
Benfica 4 (Vitor Paneira 23, Magnusson 70, 89, Cesar Brito 72), Uniao 2.
Penafiel 2, Guimaraes 1.
Sporting 2, Amadora 0.
Portimonense 3, Belenenses 1.
Feirense 1, Chaves 2.
Maritimo 3, Boavista 1.
Braga 1, Tirsense 1.
Nacional 2, Beira Mar 0.

SPAIN

Gijon 2 (Narciso 34pen, Oscar 64), At Madrid 1 (Alcazar og 78). Att: 19,000.
Valencia 4 (Fernando 71, Cuiyard 72, 78, 88), Logrones 0. Att: 35,000.
Cadiz 1 (Manolito 30), Celta 0. Att: 25,000.
Malaga 2 (Paquito 28, Usuriaga 73), Tenerife 1 (Quique 76). Att: 30,000.
Sevilla 0, Real Sociedad 1 (Aldridge 84pen). Att: 50,000.
Bilbao 3 (Iturrino 7, Salinas 40, Argote 82), Rayo 2 (Soto 86, Messias 89). Att: 12,000.
Zaragoza 2 (Pardeza 6, Sirakov 49), Barcelona 0. Att: 12,000.
Valladolid 0, Mallorca 0. Att: 10,000.
Osasuna 1 (Urban 80), Castellon 2 (Raul 17, Alcaniz 83pen). Att: 8,000.
Real Madrid 5 (Parra 15, Hugo Sanchez 37pen, 46, 60, Aldana 78), Oviedo 2 (Vinyals 6, Carlos 58). Att: 100,000.

WEST GERMANY

Midweek:
Bayern Munich 1 (Pflugler 16), St Pauli 0. Att: 18,000.
Fortuna 2 (Kaiser 71, Krumpelmann 72), Leverkusen 0. Att: 15,000.
Hamburg 1 (Merkle 85), Karlsruhe 0. Att: 25,000.
Uerdingen 1 (Bartram 53), Borussia Dortmund 3 (Zorc 14, M Rummenigge 16, Moller 24). Att: 15,700.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Bockenfeld 11, Schupp 54), Werder Bremen 2 (Rufer 15, 85). Att: 34,740.
Stuttgart 4 (Schnalke 59, Frontzeck 61, Sverrison 67, Walter 70), Nurnberg 0. Att: 16,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Binz 58), FC Homburg 1 (Westerbeek 14). Att: 14,500.
Bochum 2 (Wegmann 3, Leifeld 34), Borussia Mg 1 (Hockstaetter 37). Att: 40,000.
Koln 6 (Gotz 3, 52, 73, Sturm 8, Littbarski 63pen, Clauss og 66), Waldhof-Mannheim 0. Att: 6,000.
Weekend:
Borussia Mg 3 (Spies 36, Hochstaetter 59, Criens 74), Stuttgart 1 (Allgower 79). Att: 28,000.
Koln 2 (Ordenewitz 42, Gotz 73), Hamburg 0. Att: 22,000.
St Pauli 3 (Golke 10, Otten 56, Trulsen 83), Leverkusen 0. Att: 16,600.
Werder Bremen 2 (Harttgen 28, 38), Bayern Munich 2 (Kohler 48, Mihajlovic 72). Att: 30,100.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Zorc 32pen), Kaiserslautern 1 (Labbadia 5). Att: 34,112.
Nurnberg 1 (Klein 38), Uerdingen 1 (Reich 17). Att: 15,000.
Homburg 1 (Westerbeek 58), Bochum 0. Att: 3,500.
Karlsruhe 1 (Carl 73), Eintracht Frankfurt 0. Att: 20,500.
Waldhof-Mannheim 0, Fortuna D'dorf 1 (Klotz 83). Att: 14,000.

Week ending May 13

AUSTRIA

Midweek:
FK Austria 0, Tirol 1 (Gorosito 57). Att: 6,500.
Sturm 1 (Kramer 28), Rapid 1 (Kogler og 25). Att: 2,000.
St Polten 1 (Kempes 59), Admira 1 (Gretschnig 13). Att: 2,500.
Vienna 3 (Balzis 10, 87, Glatzmayer 76), Austria Sbg 1 (Scheiber 9). Att: 500.
Weekend:
Cup final: FK Austria 3 (A Ogris 89, Stoger 108, Hasenhuttel 112), Rapid 1 (Fjortoft 82). Att: 16,000.

BELGIUM

Charleroi 0, Mechelen 3 (B Versavel 26, Wilmots 34, Severeyns 54). Att: 6,000.
Kortrijk 1 (Wellens 89), Gent 0. Att: 2,500.
Beerschot 0, Brugge 0. Att: 6,000.
St Truiden 2 (Nwosu 63, Van Kets 76), Lierse 0. Att: 4,000.
Anderlecht 4 (Van der Linden 5, Oliveira 73, Vervoort 80, Jankovic 85), FC Liege 2 (Boffin 25, Milosevic 71). Att: 8,000.
Lokeren 1 (Myyry 76), Waregem 1 (De Graeye 54). Att: 2,500.
Standard 2 (Tikva 23, Vandersmissen 25), Ekeren 0. Att: 5,000.
Cercle 0, Beveren 1 (Massagie 89). Att: 1,500.
Racing 0, Antwerp 0. Att: 4,000.

FRANCE

Midweek
Cup qtr fnls: Racing 1, Bordeaux (5-4 pens); Cannes 0, Marseille 3 aet; Avignon 0, Montpellier 1; Mulhouse 2, Saint-Etienne 2.
Weekend:
Marseille 1 (Vercruysse 32), Caen 0. Att: 35,000.
Nice 1 (Langers 6), Bordeaux 0. Att: 13,000.
Lyon 1 (Bouafia 49), Auxerre 1 (Kovacs 2). Att: 20,000.
Nantes 3 (Amisse 9, 26, Vercauteren 16), Mulhouse 2 (Priou 68, 71). Att: 5,000.
Toulouse 4 (Bastere 14, Sene og 63, Passi 68, 76), Paris SG 1 (Zl Vujovic 33). Att: 18,000
Metz 2 (Zenier 3, Black 21), Cannes 2 (Ekstrom 74, 78). Att: 8,000.
Montpellier 0, Monaco 0. Att: 13,000.
Racing 1 (Milojevic 84), Brest 1 (Colleter 54). Att: 5,000.
Sochaux 1 (Oudjani 51), Toulon 0. Att: 3,000.
Lille 2 (Perilleux 24, Galtier 58), Saint-Etienne 2 (Fournier 48, Witschge 50). Att: 7,600.

GREECE

Midweek
Cup semi-finals, 1st legs:
Levadiakos 0, AEK 0; Olympiakos 1, Panathinaikos 1.
Weekend:
Panathinaikos 2, Apollon 1.
AEK 4, Levadiakos 0.
Volos 2, PAOK 0.
Olympiakos 2, Panionios 0.

PORTUGAL

Belenenses 1, Sporting 0.
Beira Mar 0, Penafiel 0.
Boavista 2, Braga 0.
Amadora 0, Benfica 1 (Magnusson 71pen).
Guimaraes 0, Porto 2 (Rui Nascimento 44, Abilio Novais 60).
Nacional 1, Chaves 1.
Setubal 3, Portimonense 1.
Tirsense 1, Feirense 1.
Uniao 0, Maritimo 0.

WEST GERMANY

Hamburg 1 (Furtok 88), Waldhof-Mannheim 0. Att: 27,200.
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Bein 76, Binz 85, Andersen 90), Koln 1 (Gotz 28). Att: 32,000.
Bochum 2 (Rzehaczek 25, Nehl 36), Karlsruhe 0. Att: 18,000.
Fortuna 7 (T Allofs 31, 49, Klotz 48, 60, Baffoe 56pen, Krumpelmann 75, Spanring 89), St Pauli 0. Att: 17,000.
Leverkusen 1 (A Fischer 75), Werder Bremen 3 (Hartgen 18, 56, Riedle 60). Att: 6,500.
Kaiserslautern 0, Nurnberg 2 (Kasalo 39, Dittwar 50). Att: 25,000.
Stuttgart 2 (Gaudino 48, Buchwald 56), Nurnberg 2 (Wohlert 8, Maciel 64). Att: 14,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Mihajlovic 6, Strunz 55, Grahammer 68), Borussia Dortmund 0. Att: 61,000.

Week ending May 20

AUSTRIA

Austria Sbg 5, FK Austria 0.
Admira 1, Sturm 3.
Tirol 5, St Polten 3.
Rapid 0, Vienna 3.

BELGIUM

Cup final: FC Liege 2 (Ernes 2, Nebojsa 82), Germinal Ekeren 1 (Hofman 15).

FRANCE

Auxerre 0, Nantes 0. Att: 8,000.
Bordeaux 1 (Ferreri 44), Metz 0. Att: 17,000.
Brest 1 (Buscher 84), Sochaux 0. Att: 7,000.
Caen 2 (Divert 13, Pichard 23), Lille 0. Att: 11,000.
Cannes 1 (Mengual 28), Montpeller 1 (Blanc 62). Att: 7,000.
Marseille 0, Lyon 1 (Kabongo 24). Att: 35,000.
Monaco 4 (Dib 30, Mege 50, Clement 67, Diaz 68), Racing 0. Att: 5,000.
Mulhouse 1 (Priou 4), Toulouse 0. Att: 2,000.
Paris SG 2 (Simba 21, 45), Nice 1 (Mazzuchetti 46). Att: 8,000.
Saint-Etienne 1 (Tibeuf 15), Toulon 2 (Bursac 9, 78). Att: 9,000.

GREECE

Apollon 0, AEK 0.
Kalamaria 1, Panathinaikos 1.
Doxa 3, Olympiakos 3.
Ethnikos 2, Volos 0.
Larissa 0, Ionikos 1.
Levadiakos 2, Panionios 1.
OFI 7, Aris 0.
Serres 1, Iraklis 0.
PAOK 0, Xanthi 1.

PORTUGAL

Feirense 1, Boavista 3.
Braga 1, Uniao 1.
Maritimo 1, Amadora 0.
Benfica 1 (Abel 58), Belenenses 0.
Sporting 2, Setubal 0.
Portimonense 1, Guimaraes 3.
Porto 2 (Madjer 7, Demol 63pen), Beira Mar 2 (Penteado 52, 84).
Chaves 3, Tirsense 0.
Penafiel 0, Nacional 2.

WEST GERMANY

Cup final: Kaiserslautern 3 (Labbadia 18, 25, Kuntz 30), Werder Bremen 2 (Neubarth 52, Burgsmuller 72). Att: 76,000.

GOLDEN BOOT

38 – Hugo Sanchez (Real Madrid).
35 – Rodax (Admira).
34 – Stoichkov (CSKA Sofia)
33 – Magnusson (Benfica)

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	30	21	4	5	77	27	46
Banik Ostrava	30	16	9	5	49	24	41
Int Bratislava	30	16	5	9	55	30	37
Bohemians	30	14	7	9	43	31	35
SI Bratislava	30	10	15	5	29	25	35
Plastika Nitra	30	15	4	11	50	37	34
Dukla Prague	30	12	7	11	41	32	31
Sig Olomouc	30	12	7	11	39	41	31
T J Vitkovice	30	12	5	13	38	51	29
Slavia Prague	30	10	8	12	37	39	28
RH Cheb	30	11	5	14	28	34	27
Zbrojovka	30	10	7	13	28	34	27
Bystrica	30	10	5	15	35	42	25
Dunajska	30	9	6	15	30	43	24
Sp Trnava	30	4	10	16	23	62	18
Povazska Byst	30	5	2	23	23	70	12

NORTHERN IRELAND

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portadown	26	16	7	3	42	17	55
Glenavon	26	16	6	4	52	26	54
Glentoran	26	12	8	6	43	24	44
Linfield	26	14	2	10	54	40	44
Ballymena Utd	26	12	7	7	37	25	43
Bangor	26	11	5	10	26	22	28
Newry Town	26	11	4	11	42	27	37
Cliftonville	26	9	8	9	36	29	35
Larne	26	8	7	11	29	38	31
Carrick Rgrs	26	8	6	12	33	36	30
Coleraine	26	8	6	12	36	44	30
Ards	26	5	6	15	25	32	21
Crusaders	26	4	8	14	27	55	20
Distillery	26	4	8	14	27	63	20

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Patrick's	33	22	8	3	51	22	52
Derry City	33	20	9	4	72	18	49
Dundalk	33	17	8	8	50	26	42
Shamrock R	33	16	8	9	45	37	40
Cork City	33	14	7	12	35	24	35
Bohemians	33	14	7	12	35	32	35
Shelbourne	33	10	13	10	39	39	33
Galway Utd	33	10	9	14	39	61	29
Limerick City	33	7	8	18	28	50	22
Athlone Town	33	5	12	16	28	53	22
Drogheda Utd	33	5	8	20	20	44	18
UCD	33	6	5	22	25	61	17

ENGLAND

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	38	23	10	5	78	37	79
Aston Villa	38	21	7	10	57	38	70
Tottenham	38	19	6	13	59	47	63
Arsenal	38	18	8	12	54	38	62
Chelsea	38	16	12	10	58	50	60
Everton	38	17	8	13	57	46	59
Southampton	38	15	10	13	71	63	55
Wimbledon	38	13	16	9	47	40	55
Nottingham F	38	15	9	14	55	47	54
Norwich	38	13	14	11	44	42	53
QPR	38	13	11	14	45	44	50
Coventry	38	14	7	17	39	59	49
Man. Utd	38	13	9	16	46	47	48
Crystal Palace	38	13	9	16	42	66	48
Derby	38	13	7	18	43	40	46
Luton	38	10	13	15	43	57	43
Sheffield Wed	38	11	10	17	35	51	43
Charlton	38	7	9	22	31	57	30
Millwall	38	5	11	22	39	65	26

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FRANCE

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	38	22	9	7	75	34	53
Bordeaux	38	22	7	9	51	25	51
Monaco	38	15	16	7	38	24	46
Sochaux	38	17	9	12	46	39	43
Paris-SG	38	18	6	14	50	48	42
Auxerre	38	14	13	11	49	40	41
Nantes	38	13	14	1	42	34	40
Lyon	38	14	11	13	43	41	39
Toulouse	38	13	12	13	39	39	38
Brest	38	15	8	15	39	44	38
Cannes	38	12	12	14	44	50	36
Toulon	38	12	11	15	35	50	35
Montpellier	38	12	10	16	49	48	34
Metz	38	8	18	12	33	36	34
St.Etienne	38	11	12	15	38	46	34
Caen	38	12	10	16	34	48	34
Lille	38	12	9	17	43	52	33
Nice	38	9	13	16	34	48	31
Paris Racing	38	10	10	18	39	59	30
Mulhouse	38	9	10	19	42	58	28

HOLLAND

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	34	19	11	4	67	23	49
PSV Eind	34	20	8	6	94	36	48
Twente	34	16	10	8	48	34	42
Vitesse	34	15	11	8	49	31	41
Roda	34	14	13	7	53	39	41
Volendam	34	15	9	10	43	38	39
Fortuna Sittard	34	12	14	8	42	35	38
RKC	34	13	11	10	45	47	37
Groningen	34	10	15	9	50	46	35
Den Haag	34	13	7	14	58	63	33
Feyenoord	34	9	13	12	51	45	31
Sparta	34	12	7	15	51	61	31
Willem II	34	7	13	14	42	49	27
Utrecht	34	8	11	15	27	45	27
MVV	34	7	13	14	38	61	27
NEC	34	5	16	13	32	55	26
Den Bosch	34	6	13	15	30	51	25
Haarlem	34	4	7	23	22	74	15

ITALY

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	34	21	9	4	57	31	51
Milan	34	22	5	7	56	2	49
Internazionale	34	17	10	7	55	21	44
Juventus	34	15	14	5	56	36	44
Sampdoria	34	16	11	7	46	26	43
Roma	34	14	13	7	45	40	41
Atalanta	34	12	11	11	36	43	35
Bologna	34	9	16	9	29	36	34
Lazio	34	8	15	11	34	33	31
Bari	34	6	19	9	34	37	31
Genoa	34	6	17	11	27	31	29
Fiorentina	34	7	14	13	41	42	28
Cesena	34	6	16	12	26	36	28
Lecce	34	10	8	16	29	46	28
Udinese	34	6	15	13	37	51	27
Verona	34	6	13	15	27	44	25
Cremonese	34	5	13	16	29	50	23
Ascoli	34	4	13	17	29	43	21

PORTUGAL

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	34	27	5	2	72	16	59
Benfica	34	23	9	2	76	18	55
Sporting	34	17	12	5	42	24	46
Guimaraes	34	17	11	6	46	28	45
Chaves	34	12	14	8	38	38	38
Belenenses	34	16	4	14	32	33	36
Setubal	34	14	8	12	39	34	36
Boavista	34	13	8	13	49	36	34
Tirsense	34	7	16	11	21	32	30
Maritimo	34	7	15	12	25	38	29
Beira Mar	34	10	9	15	22	39	29
Braga	34	8	12	14	32	42	28
Estrela Am	34	10	8	16	35	34	28
Nacional Mad	34	7	12	15	34	46	28
Penafiel	34	9	8	17	24	50	26
Un Madeira	34	5	14	15	24	45	24
Portimonense	34	7	7	20	30	57	21
Feirense	34	5	10	19	25	57	20

SCOTLAND

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	36	20	11	5	48	19	51
Aberdeen	36	17	10	9	56	33	44
Hearts	36	16	12	8	54	35	44
Dundee Utd	36	11	13	12	36	39	35
Celtic	36	10	14	12	37	37	34
Motherwell	36	11	12	13	43	47	34
Hibernian	36	12	10	14	34	41	34
Dunfermline	36	11	8	17	37	50	30
St Mirren	36	10	10	16	28	48	30
Dundee	36	5	14	17	41	65	24

SPAIN

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	38	26	10	2	107	38	62
Valencia	38	20	13	5	67	42	53
Barcelona	38	23	5	10	83	39	51
Atl. Madrid	38	20	10	8	55	35	50
Real Sociedad	38	15	14	9	43	35	44
Sevilla	38	18	7	13	64	46	43
Logrones	38	18	5	15	47	51	41
Osasuna	38	14	12	12	42	42	40
Zaragoza	38	16	8	14	52	52	40
Mallorca	38	11	17	10	36	34	39
Oviedo	38	12	15	11	41	46	39
Bilbao	38	11	15	12	37	39	37
Gijon	38	12	10	16	37	34	34
Castellon	38	9	14	15	30	48	32
Cadiz	38	12	6	20	28	63	30
Valladolid	38	8	14	16	31	41	30
Malaga	38	9	10	19	23	50	28
Tenerife	38	8	10	20	42	60	26
Celta	38	5	12	21	24	51	22
R Vallecano	38	6	7	25	32	75	19

TURKEY

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	34	23	6	5	77	20	75
Fenerbahce	34	22	4	8	70	38	70
Trabzonspor	34	20	8	6	58	28	68
Galatasaray	34	19	6	9	59	26	63
Sariyer	34	16	11	7	52	37	59
Bursaspor	34	13	8	13	46	45	47
Konyaspor	34	13	7	14	41	42	46
Karsiyaka	34	14	4	16	47	50	46
Ankaragucu	34	13	7	14	32	42	46
Zeytinburnu	34	13	6	15	39	39	45
Genclerbirligi	34	11	12	11	50	51	45
Adanaspor	34	12	9	13	48	53	45
Boluspor	34	11	12	11	32	38	45
Malatyaspor	34	12	8	14	42	46	44
Altay	34	9	8	17	38	57	35
Samsunspor	34	7	6	21	24	50	27
A.demirspor	34	5	8	21	30	83	23
Sakaryaspor	34	5	6	23	33	73	21

GREECE

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	33	21	10	2	73	33	52
AEK	33	19	10	4	61	18	48
Olympiakos	33	18	9	6	55	29	45
PAOK	33	19	7	7	46	24	45
Iraklis	33	14	10	9	42	33	38
OFI Crete	33	15	4	14	45	38	34
Aris	33	11	12	10	36	37	34
Larissa	33	11	10	12	33	36	32
Panionios	33	8	13	12	43	52	29
Doxa Drama	33	9	10	14	37	38	28
Panserraikos	33	9	10	14	31	39	28
Levadiakos	33	12	7	14	34	44	27
Apollon	33	8	11	14	33	35	27
Kalamaria	33	7	13	13	30	35	27
Xanthi	33	11	5	17	30	51	27
Ionikos	33	8	11	14	26	35	27
Volos	33	10	2	21	30	61	22
Ethnikos	33	7	6	20	20	47	20

BULGARIA

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CFKA Sredets	28	17	9	2	79	25	43
Levski	28	12	10	6	54	35	34
Pirin	28	12	8	8	42	30	32
Lok Sofia	28	14	4	10	48	39	32
Slavia	28	11	10	7	31	28	32
Etur	28	12	7	9	41	32	31
Botev	28	14	3	11	40	36	31
Beroe	28	10	8	10	42	44	28
Lok Gorna	28	10	8	10	26	31	28
Chernomorets	28	10	7	11	35	35	27
Sliven	28	11	5	12	39	41	27
Dounav	28	8	9	11	25	34	25
Lok Plovdiv	28	8	9	11	29	43	25
Hebur	28	9	5	14	24	42	23
Cherno More	28	6	3	19	27	58	15
Vratsa	28	5	5	18	22	55	15

BELGIUM

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brugge	34	25	7	2	76	19	57
Anderlecht	34	24	5	5	76	21	53
Mechelen	34	19	12	3	65	14	50
Antwerp	34	15	13	6	63	32	43
Standard	34	16	10	8	54	33	42
Gent	34	12	12	10	45	39	36
Kortrijk	34	13	7	14	39	46	33
Beerschot	34	11	10	13	34	47	32
CS Bruges	34	12	7	15	46	47	31
FC Liege	34	8	12	14	35	45	28
Lierse	34	11	6	17	42	66	28
Lokeren	34	9	10	15	34	66	28
Ekeren	34	10	7	17	38	52	27
Charleroi	34	9	9	16	41	56	27
Saint-Trond	34	8	11	15	25	45	27
Waregem	34	8	9	17	35	63	25
Beveren	34	8	8	18	32	57	24
Racing

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Switzerland 1 (Kubilay Turkyilmaz 89)
Argentina 1 (Abel Balbo 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 10,000. **Ref**: Kelly (RI)

Switzerland: Walker – Geiger (Fischer 46), Baumann (Schepull 78), Herr, Hottiger, Hermann, Knup, Koller, Piffaretti, A Sutter (Chapuisat 53), Turkyilmaz.

Argentina: Pumpido – Lorenzo, Serrizuela, Ruggeri, Simon, Sensini (Troglio 56), Balbo (Dezotti 59), Basualdo, Batista, Burruchaga (Caniggia 85), Maradona.

Argentina came within one minute of their first victory since last July, the first half contained few dangerous moments for either keeper. Switzerland's Adrian Knup had the best first-half chance but veteran keeper Pumpido pushed his shot away. In the second half Argentina changed up a gear and skipper Maradona opened the way for Baldo to strike a magnificent shot home for the opening goal. Argentina maintained control for most of the rest of the match but were caught by surprise in the last minute when Turkyilmaz outsprinted Batista and struck home a powerful drive of his own to equalise.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

May 9 Nimes (France) – intl friendly
UAE 1 (Mubarak 61)
Morocco 3 (Nader Hassen 25, Khairi Anbdelrasak 26, El Ghrissi 31)
HT: 0-3. **Att**: 2,000.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

May 10 Hershey – intl friendly
United States 3 (Murray 31, Vermes 57pen, Sullivan 78)
Poland 1 (Ziober 25)
HT: 1-1. **Att**: 12,000. **Ref**: Purcell (Ire)

US: Keller – Armstrong, Windischmann, Trittschuh, Stollmeyer (Balboa 72) – Caligiuri, Harkes, Ramos – Wynalda, Murray (Sullivan 76), Vermes.

Poland: Wandzik – Szewczyk (Nowak 72), Gora (R Warzycha 68), Lukasik, Kaczmarek – Pisz, Kubicki, Czachowski, Soczynski – Ziober, Kosecki.

This was the best of the Americans' warm-up results, against useful opponents who had taken the trip seriously.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

May 13 Rio de Janeiro – intl friendly
Brazil 3 (Alemao 44, Careca 55, Dunga 59)
East Germany 3 (Doll 47, Ernst 69, Steimmann 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 67,609. **Ref**: Felix (Brz)

Brazil: Taffarel – Mozer, Aldair, Ricardo Gomes (Mauro Galvao 70), Branco (Mazinho 70), Jorginho, Alemao (Bismarck 67), Valdo (Silas 60), Dunga, Careca, Muller (Bebeto 61).

E Germany: Brautigam – Boger, Peschke, Lindner, Herzog, Schuster, Hauptmann (Steinmann 64), Weidemann (Rossler 77), Ernst, Kirsten, Doll.

Brazil rounded off their home warm-up programme with an unconvincing display which drew a chorus of whistles and jeers at the final whistle. When Alemao shot Brazil ahead with a determined goal from close range just before half-time there appeared little chance of an East German fightback. But Brazil could not maintain consistent pressure. Two minutes after the restart Doll headed home a corner from close range to equalise. Brazil regained the lead with a low Careca header to a Branco cross – making amends for two earlier misses. Then Dunga seized on a lucky bounce to smash a terrific drive from the edge of penalty box past Brautigam for number three. Brazil then began to ring the changes and East Germany took advantage. One of the visitors' substitutes, Steinmann, set up the move from which Ernst pulled one goal back. Then, in the last minute, Steinmann himself cracked the equaliser with an awesome free kick which rocketed just inside Taffarel's left-hand post.

May 13 Vancouver – North American Cup
Canada 2 (John Catliff 16, 88)
Mexico 1 (Flores 68pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 6,000.

Canada won the cup thanks to the goals of John Catliff. He opened the scoring with a simple tap-in after a Nick Gilbert effort rebounded off the bar, then Catliff scored the winner with an angled left-foot drive. Inbetween Mexico scored with a Luis Flores penalty after Randy Samuel hauled down Juan Morales. Keeper Craig Forrest stood no chance with Flores's penalty.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

May 15 Wembley – intl friendly
England 1 (Gary Lineker 55)
Denmark 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 27,643. **Ref**: McCluskey (Scot)

England: **Shilton (Woods 46) – Stevens, Walker, Butcher, Pearce (Dorigo 46) – Waddle (Rocastle 65), Gascoigne, McMahon (Platt 76), Hodge – Lineker (Bull 65), Barnes.**

Denmark: Schmeichel – Siwebaek, K Nielsen, L Olsen, H Andersen – Vilfort, M Laudrup, Jensen, Bartram – Povlsen (Bruun 65), B Laudrup (Jakobsen 65).

A "Geoff Hurst" goal from Gary Lineker brought England a victory in a pleasant-enough international. Denmark might have had two or three early goals but poor finishing (by Andersen and Michael Laudrup) and the alertness of Shilton held them at bay. England badly missed the midfield dynamism of Bryan Robson in the first half but in the second half their best move – involving Barnes and Hodge – ended with Lineker shooting against the bar. The ball bounced down behind the goal-line and bounced out but this time replay evidence showed conclusively that the referee was correct to allow the goal to stand. This was Lineker's 31st goal in 49 internationals. Denmark were in the charge, for the first time, of new manager Richard Moller Nielsen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

May 16 Tel-Aviv – intl friendly
Israel 3 (Uri Malmillian 18, Nir Levin 30, Tal Banim 67)
Soviet Union 2 (Gennadi Litovchenko 27, Alexei Mikhailichenko 40)
HT: 2-2. **Att**: 55,000. **Ref**: Van der Wijgaert (Bel)

Israel scored a non-so-surprising victory over the Soviets in the visitors' last full international before the World Cup finals. The Soviets' first senior visit to Israel was an unusual match in several ways – with the crowd showering missiles onto the pitch, jeering the Israeli team and cheering the Soviets. The cause of the fans' anger was the non-appearance of star exiles Ronny Rosenthal, Shalom Tikva and Eli Ohana. The three players had pulled out of the match when the Israeli federation would not meet their insurance demands. All three were subjected to abuse and target practice from missile-throwing fans and at one stage riot police had to be summoned for fear of danger to state President Chaim Herzog and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. In all circumstances a defeat for the Soviets was not so surprising.

May 16 Dublin – Liam Brady Farewell Testimonial
Rep Ireland 1 (Kevin Sheedy 85)
Finland 1 (V Tauriainen 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 31,556. **Ref**: Gifford (Wal)

Rep Ireland: Bonner – Hughton, Staunton (Morris 67), McCarthy, O'Leary, Brady (Townsend 26), McGrath, Houghton, Slaven (Aldridge 56), Cascarino, Bryne (Sheedy 63).

Finland: Huttunen – Vuorela, Sulonen, Hiekkinen, Jantti (Turunen 87), Kanerva, Jurvinen, P Tauriainen, Litmanen (V Tauriainen 71), Myyry (Altanen 59), Patelainen. Liam Brady's Farewell international earned around £200,000 and he left the pitch to a standing ovation. Finland, however, were not so generous. They went close through Kanerva and Patelainen early on and eventually took the lead through substitute Vesa Tauriainen's spectacular volley in the 76th minute. It took a brave diving header from Irish substitute Kevin Sheedy to preserve the Republic's four-year unbeaten home record.

May 16 Aberdeen – friendly intl
Scotland 1 (McCoist 73)
Egypt 3 (Abdulhamid 15, Hossam Hassan 28, Yousef 83)
HT: 0-2. **Att**: 23,000. **Ref**: Pedersen (Nor)

Scotland: Gunn – McKimmie (McCall). Gillespie, McLeish (Levein 89), Malpas, Bett, McStay, Cooper, Durie, McCoist.

Egypt: Shoubeir – Ibrahim Hassan, Hisham Yakin, Rabie Yassin, Hany Ramzy, Ahmed El Kas (El Batal 46), Abdel Gani (Mayoub 60), Youssef, Ahmed Ramzy, Hossam Hassan, Amdel Hamid.

Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh had an ironic comment for interviewers after this apparent Pittodrie disaster. He said: "In the past Scotland have gone to World Cups with far too high expectations. There's no danger of that this time." Eager Egypt took the game to Scotland, looked the more skilful and better organised. They were helped by an incredible lofted backpass from Gordon Durie which presented brave Abdul Hamid with the opening goal. Hossam Hassan made it 2-0 before the break. Scotland pulled one back through McCoist but Durie – having a nightmare match – missed a reasonable chance before Ismail Yousef scored the best goal of the game to wrap it up for Egypt with seven minutes to go. To add to Scotland's problems, McKimmie aggravated a ligament injury and Mcleish suffered a broken nose – both of which put a question mark against their World Cup prospects.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

May 18 Belfast – intl friendly
N Ireland 1 (Kevin Wilson 38)
Uruguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 3,000. **Ref**: Cooper (Wal)

N Ireland: Wright – Hill (Devine 80), Worthington, Taggart, McDonald, Rogan (Morrow 84), Dennison (McCreery 61), D Wilson, Dowie, K Wilson, Black.

Uruguay: Zeoli – Gutierrez, De Leon, Herrera (Pintos Saldanha 73), Perdomo, Dominguez, Alzamendi (Aguilera 73), Ostolaza, Francescoli, Bengoechea (Paz 60), Sosa.

Kevin Wilson's goal provided Northern Ireland with only their fourth international success in four years. They were a little fortunate to hang on. Twice Bengoechea went once and Francescoli saw a header bounce wide off a post. Irish manager Billy Bingham said: "Our tactics bewildered them but if we had kept the game open we could have been pulverised."

SATURDAY, MAY 19

May 19 Glasgow/Hampden – intl friendly
Scotland 1 (Mo Johnston 42)
Poland 1 (Gary Gillespie og 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 25,142. **Ref**: Worrall (Eng)

Scotland: Goram – Gough, Gillespie, Levein, Malpas, McCall, Aitken, McAllister (McStay 83), MacLeod (Collins 65), Johnston (McInally 73), McCoist.

Poland: Bako – Kubicki, Lukasik (Soczynski 46), Wdowczyk, Kaczmarek, Prusik, Czachowski, Nawrocki (Pisz 70), Dziekanowski, Kosecki, Ziober.

Scotland pressed the self-destruct button yet again in their last home match before the World Cup finals. A remarkable lobbed own goal by Gillespie – no wonder he was allotted World Cup shirt No 13 – provided Poland with an equaliser. Coach Andy Roxburgh said: "I'm fed up with this kamikaze attitude. It's hard for managers to legislate for mistakes of his nature. You just don't know where the next one is coming from." Scotland did have chances to win. McCoist hit the post and bar and saw one goalbound drive blocked by the Celtic defender, Wdowczyk.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

May 20 Cardiff – intl friendly
Wales 1 (Saunders 10)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 5,977. **Ref**: Martino (Swz)

Wales: Southall – Blackmore, Bodin, Aizlewood, Young (Melville 70), Hopkins, Horne, Nicholas, Saunders, Hughes (Allen 75), Hodges (Speed 75).

Costa Rica: Coneja – R Flores, Medford (Jaibel 46), Chaves, Guimaraes (Marin 46), C Jara, Davis, Myers, J Jara, Montero, Quesada.

Costa Rica were reasonably pleased with the result against a Rush-less Wales. Yet the Central Americans created only one worthwhile goal opportunity – a first-half header which Southall pushed off the bar. Wales grabbed their first victory in 11 games thanks to a seventh international goal from Dean Saunders.

MONDAY, MAY 21

May 21 Marseille – intl friendly
UAE 0
Poland 4 (Dariusz Dziekanowski 31, Roman Kosecki 33, 66, Krzystof Warzycha 46)
HT: 0-2. **Att**: 3,000.

The Emirates were given a sharp warning about what may lie ahead of them in the World Cup finals. Poland not only scored four but his the woodwork three times.

May 21 Bucharest – intl friendly
Rumania 1 (Rodion Camataru 19)
Egypt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 12,000. **Ref**: Rudy (Pol)

Rumania: Lung – Rednic (Ad Popescu 72), Andone, Gh Popescu, Klein – Sabau, Lupu (Dumitrescu 74), Rotariu, Hagi (Timofte 46) – Lacatus, Camataru (Raducioiu 65).

Egypt: Shoubeir – I Hassan, Y Acan, Yasem, H Hasan – Regap (Mayhoub 46), H Ramzy, Abdelghani (Abou Zeid 62), A Ramzy – Yousef, Abdelhamid (Rahman 46).

Scotland draw with Poland

Rumania did not make the same mistakes as Scotland. They gave Egypt little room to manoeuvre and were tight and efficient at the back. Veteran spearhead Camataru, recalled from Belgium, scored the decisive goal.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

May 22 Tel-Aviv – intl friendly
Israel 1 (Banin 38)
Argentina 2 (Maradona 35, Caniggia 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att**: 45,000. **Ref**: Christov (Cz)

Israel: **Gilardi – Amar, Davidi (Raphael Cohen 81), Hadad, Barda, Aharoni, Sinai, Malmilian, Banin, Klinger (Hazan 71), Levin (Mizrahi 63).**

Argentina: Pumpido – Simon, Ruggeri, Serrizuela (Fabbri 80), Sensini (Lorenzo 43), Bartista, Burruchaga, Basualdo, Maradona, Balbo (Olarticoechea 80), Dezotti (Caniggia 61).

A rare victory for the World Cup-holders was overshadowed by the decision of Argentine manager to exclude Jorge Valdano from the World Cup squad. Valdano had worked hard since last summer in a remarkable comeback attempt. But his slow recovery rate from minor injuries was probably vital in making up Bilardo's mind. The grumpy Paris SG forward, Gabriel Calderon, was called up in his place. The match was decided by a header from substitute Caniggia to a Burruchaga chip. Israel were again weakened by the absence of their three exiled professionals – this time they were left out by a decision of the federation who appeared likely to ban them from international football for three years for having failed to turn out against the Soviets.

May 22 Wembley – intl friendly
England 1 (Barnes 52)
Uruguay 2 (Ostolaza 27, Perdomo 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att**: 38,751. **Ref**: D'Elia.

England: Shilton – Parker, Walker, Butcher, Pearce – Waddle, Gascoigne, Robson, Hodge (beardsley 78), Lineker (Bull 78), Barnes.

Uruguay: Pereira – Gutierrez, Herrera, De Leon, Dominguez, Ostolaza, Perdomo, Francescoli, Paz – Alzamendi, Sosa (Martinez 80).

England suffered their sixth Wembley defeat and their first by Uruguay in their first home match against the South Americans since the Opening Game of the 1966 World Cup. Uruguay looked far more impressive than against Northern Ireland although England had more of the play. England manager Bobby Robson tempered concern in defeat with a realistic assessment that it might just have done England a little bit of good to have their sails trimmed so close to the World Cup. Of more concern was the goalkeeping of Shilton – caught in no-man's land for Ostolaza's goal and beaten from 30 yards by a Perdomo free kick. England's consolation goal was a superbly-struck effort from John Barnes.

OTHER MATCHES

Feb 1: Pisa 3, Rumania 0.
Feb 6 (Zico Farewell in Rio): Flamengo 2 (Fernando 53, 80), **World XI 2** (Claudio Adao, Tarantini).
Feb 7: Bayern Munich 2 (Wohlfarth 18, 84), Rumania 1 (Hagi 34). – **Torino 1** (Roberto Policano 26), **Soviet Union 2** (Mikhailichenko 5, Litovchenko 18). – **Cameroon 1** (Abena 65), **Kuban (Sov) 0**. – **(Reggio Emilia): Italy U21 1** (Bresciani 84pen), **Greece U21 1).**
Feb 8: Qatar 0, Rapid Vienna 0.
Feb 9: Norway 0, S Korea 3 (unofficial intl in Valletta, Malta).
Feb 14: Thailand 2, Rotor (Sov Union) 1 (King's Cup Final in Bangkok).
Feb 20: Marlboro Cup semi-final (Los Angeles) – Guadalajara 3, Costa Rica 0.
Feb 22: Marlboro Cup final (Los Angeles) – Colombia 1, Guadlajara 0.
Mar 26: United German Veterans 1, World XI Veterans 3 (Fund-raising game in Dresden).
Mar 27: Rep Ireland B 4, England B 1 – Scotland B 0, Yugoslavia B 0.
April 3: Linfield 0, Argentina 1 (Lorenzo 4min); **N Ireland U21 2, Israel U21 1** (abandoned 88min, floodlights failure).
April 5: Italy Military XI 2, Rumania 3.
April 11: Spain 3, Spanish Lge Imports XI 1.
April 24: England B 2, Czechoslovakia B 0 – Scotland B 1, East Germany B 2 – Rep Ireland U21 1, Malta U23 1.
May 2: South Korea 1, Guarani (Paraguay) 1.
May 3: Fluminense Youth 0, Brazil 8.
May 4: Padova 1, Uruguay 4 – Marlboro Cup semi-final (Chicago): Atlas (Mex) 2, Costa Rica 0
May 6: Canada 1, United States B 0 – Marlboro Cup Final (Chicago): Atlas 0, Colombia 0 (Atlas 4-1 pens).
May 8: Andalucia XI 1, Uruguay 1.
May 9: South Korea 1, Arsenal 2 (in Singapore)
May 12: Lazio 2, Costa Rica 1 – Trinidad and Tobago 1, East Germany Olympic XI 1.
May 13: US 1, Ajax 1 – UAE 1, Brazil U21 3.
May 14: United States 1, Ajax Amsterdam 1 – Villach (Aus) 1, Uruguay 7.
May 15: N Ireland U23 2, Rep Ireland U23 3 – UAE 1, Nimes 4.
May 17: South Korea 0, Moscow Spartak 1 – UAE 0, Stuttgart 2.
May 18: Schalke 0, Soviet Union 7.
May 19: Madrid XI 0, Brazil 1 – Wales U21 2, Poland U21 0.
May 20: United States 1, Partizan Belgrade 0 – Hannover 0, Soviet Union 4.
May 22: Lech Poznan 1, Colombia 1 – Trinidad/Tobago 4, Crystal Palace 0.
May 23: Sweden U23 1, Japan 0 – Mexico 1, Koln 1.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-finals, second legs
09. 05. 90 Sov Union v Sweden 2-0
Sov Union 3-1 on agg
09. 05. 90 Italy v Yugoslavia 2-2
Yugoslavia on away goals: 2-2 agg

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA: National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	31	16	10	5	33	14	42
Rosario	31	14	12	5	40	28	40
Independiente	31	14	11	6	48	30	39
Boca Juniors	31	9	17	5	42	32	35
Union Santa Fe	31	10	14	7	35	30	34
Newell's	31	10	13	8	35	31	33
Racing	31	9	15	7	26	26	33
Velez Sarsfield	31	10	12	9	37	30	32
Gimnasia	31	10	12	9	26	25	32
Arg. Juniors	31	10	10	11	32	32	30
Dep. Mandiyu	31	9	12	10	34	35	30
Talleres	31	9	12	10	33	35	30
Estudiantes	31	6	17	8	28	29	29
Platense	31	10	9	12	29	31	29
FC Oeste	31	5	17	9	14	17	27
Dep. Espanol	31	11	5	5	36	41	27
San Lorenzo	31	7	12	12	34	46	26
Racing Cordoba	31	8	12	14	23	35	25
Instituto	31	7	10	14	30	46	24
Chaco	31	7	9	15	32	52	23

Worst relegation averages (bottom two relegated): Dep.Maniyu 0.91; FC Oeste 0.84; Racing Cordoba 0.83; Chaco For Ever and Instituto 0.74.

COLOMBIA: Opening tournament
Group A: Bucaramanaga 7 pts; Independiente Santa Fe, Millonarios 5; Cucuta 4, Tolima 3. Group B: America 7, Caldas 6, Quindio 5; Dept. Cali 4, Dep. Pereira 2. Group C: Union Magdalena 7, Independiente Medellin 6, Atletico Junior and Nacional 4, Sporting 3.

PARAGUAY: First Division (Ist round)
1) Cerro Porteno 16 points; 2) Libertad, Guarani, Sportivo Luqueno 12; 5) Sport Colombia, San Lorenzo, River Plate 11; 8) Olimpia, Colegiales, Sol de America 8; 11) Tembetary 6; 12) Nacional 5.

CHILE: Opening tournament
Northern group: 1) Cobresal, Universidad Catolica 11 points; 3) Huachipato, Naval 10; 5) Iquique 9; 6) La Serena 8; 7) Cobreloa, Palestino 6. Southern group: 1) Colo Colo, O'Higgins, Union Espanola, Concepcion 11; 5) Wanderers 7; 6) Everton, Fernandez Vial 6; 8) Universidad de Chile 4.

BRAZIL: State championships
Guanabara State (Rio): 2nd round (one game to go): 1) Fluminense 16 points; 2) Falmengo 14; Botafogo 13; 4) America (Rio) 12; 5) America (Tres Rios), Vasco da Gama 11; 7) Bangu 10; 8) Americano 9; 9) Cabofriense 8; 10) Campo Grande 7; 11) Nova Cidade 4; 12) Itaperuna 3. Sao Paulo State – Group 1: 1) Corinthians, Palmeiras 25 pts; 3) Bragantino 24; 4) Mogi Mirin 22; 5) Novorizontino,Uniao Sao Joao 20; 7) Portuguesa 19; 8) Internacional, Guarani, Santos, Sao Jose, Sao Paulo 17. Group 2: 1) XV de Piracicaba, Botafogo 19; 3) Ponte Preta Ferrovaria, America 18; 6) XV de Jau 17; 7) Sao Bento, Ituano 16; 9) Noreste 14; 10) Catanduvense 13; 11) Juventus, Santo ndre 11.

(S. and C. America. League tables – 2)

VENEZULA: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo	25	13	10	2	36
Tachira	25	14	7	4	35
Minerven	25	14	6	5	34
Caracas FC	24	11	7	6	29
Univ de los Andes	25	11	7	7	29
Zamora	25	8	10	7	26
Portuguesa	25	7	9	9	23
Pepegang	23	7	9	7	23
Mineros	22	8	7	7	23
Estudiantes	24	5	12	7	22
Italia	24	7	7	10	21
Trujillanos	25	6	9	10	21
Maracaibo	25	7	7	11	21
Lara	25	6	7	12	19
Internacional	24	4	8	12	16
Galicia	24	2	8	14	12

ECUADOR: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	8	5	2	1	17	9	11
Delfin	8	3	4	1	10	6	10
Dep. Cuenca	8	3	4	1	14	9	10
Liga Dep. Univ	8	4	2	2	9	10	10
Dep. Quito	8	4	1	3	16	9	9
Barcelona	6	3	3	0	18	7	9
Emelec	7	3	2	2	9	5	8
Aucas	8	3	2	3	13	18	8
Macara	8	1	4	3	4	13	6
Tecnico Univ	6	2	1	3	11	13	5
Filanbanco	7	0	2	5	4	12	2
Juventus	8	0	1	7	5	19	1

URUGUAY: Copa Competencia (Group play – final standings)
Group A: 1) Liverpool, Pogreso, Rentiastas 8; 4) Penarol 7; 5) River Plate, Danubio 6; 7) Bella Vista. 4. Group B: 1) Nacional 10; 2) Wanderers 9; 3) Cerro 8; 4) Central Espanol 7; 5) Defensor Sporting 6; 6) Racing Club 5; 7) Huracan Buceo 4. (Top four of each group qualify for final round.)

SAN SALVADOR: Final round (final)
1) Luis Angel Firpo 9 points; 2) Alianz 8; 3) Atletico Marte 6; 4) Cojutepeque 1.

COSTA RICA – First Division
1) Saprissa 43 points; 2) Alajuelense 35; 3) Uruguay 28; 4) Herediano, Cartagines 27; 6) Limon 25; 7) San Carlos, Puntarenas 23; 9) Guanacaste 21; 10) Palmares 16 – suspended during World Cup with one game to go.

HONDURAS – First Division
1) Espana 12 points; 2) Olimpia, Marathon 8; 4) Vida 6; 5) Super Estrella 5; 6) Motague, Tela-Timsa 4; 8) Platense, Sula 3; 10) Victoria 2.

Group 1							
Puebla	36	17	11	8	55	38	45
Univ.Aut.Mexico	36	13	16	7	53	37	42
Monterrey	36	14	12	10	52	47	40
Irapuato	36	10	16	10	37	38	36
Morelia	36	12	11	13	40	40	35
Group 2							
Univ. Guadalajara	36	14	11	11	48	44	39
Toluca	36	10	15	11	37	31	35
Cruz Azul	36	8	16	12	44	56	32
Torreon	36	10	12	14	35	46	32
Atlante	36	8	10	18	32	47	26
Group 3							
America	36	16	14	6	41		46
Tamaulipas	36	14	11	11	33	34	39
Atlas	36	10	15		39	27	35
U.A.G.	36	8	15	13	42	52	31
Tampico-Madero	36	9	10	17	28	44	28
Group 4							
Univ. Nuevo Leon	36	14	11	11	59	58	39
Necaxa	36	11	16	9	36	31	38
Guadalajara	36	9	17	10	36	40	35
Ciudad Juarez	36	12	12	12	40	45	36
Veracruz	36	10	11	15	50	57	31

LIBERTADORES CUP (South American Champion Clubs trophy)
First round group 1
March 14 in La Paz, Bolivia.

THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 2 (Quinteros, Jimenez)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 20,000. **Ref**: Armando Aliaga (Bolivia).

The Strongest: Aragon, Montano, Fontano, Martinez, Illanes, Villegas, Quinteros, Luna, Ortega (Veliz), Jimenez, Ayaviri (Rocha).

Oriente Petrolero: Bernuncio, Monasterio, Brunetto, Villafane, Saldias, Avila, Roca, Medrano (Molina), Cristaldo, Melgar, Da Silva.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador.
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 0
EMELEC (Ecuador) 0
Att: 50,000.

A poor match in which Barcelona may have had a few more goal chances and Emelec played more for an away point.

March 23 in La Paz, Bolivia.
THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 4 (Quinteros, Jimenez, Ortega, Luna)
EMELEC (Ecuador) 3 (Aviles, Russo 2)
HT: 3-3. **Ref**: Alberto Tejada (Peru). **Att**: 30,000.

The Strongest: Aragon, Montano, Fontano, Illanes, Arce, Villegas, Quinteros, Luna, Ortega, Jimenez, Ayaviri (Veliz).

Emelec: Baldriz, Carrion, Canga, Russo, Capurro, Fajardo, Verduga, Mendoza, Ron, Aviles, Lezcano.

Emelec were technically superior and deserved at least a point, but The Strongest opposed this with more vigour, fighting spirit and the backing of fans.

March 23 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 1 (Da Silva)
EMELEC (Ecuador) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref**: Walter Barrios (Peru). **Att**: 22,000.

Oriente Petrolero: Bernuncio, Monasterio, Coimbra, Brunetto, Saldias, Roca, Melgar, Cristaldo (Medrano), Da Silva, Molina (Villafane), Campos.

Emelec: Baldriz, Carrion, Canga, Russo, Capurro, Fajardo (Minda), Verduga, Ron, Mendoza (Vidal Pachito), Lezcano, Aviles.

Emelec played better in the first half, but lacked punch and luck. Emelec lost the initiative after the interval, specially when being left with 10 men after 10 minutes when Ron was sent off for rough play although the teams were even again six minutes later when Orient's Coimbra was also sent off.

March 27 in Gayaquil, Ecuador.
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 2 (Munoz, Trobbiani)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia 1 (Campos)
HT: 2-1. **Ref**: Jose Vergara (Venezuela).

Barcelona: Morales, Izquierdo, Montanero, Macias, Guzman, Hurtado, Saralegui, Munoz (Proana), Trobbiani, Uquillas (Jauch), Acosta.

Oriente Petrolero: Bernuncio, Monasterio (Avila), Brunetto, Villafane, Saldias, Campos, Melgar, Roca, Cristaldo, DaSilva, Medrano (Molina).

Former Argentine international Marcelo Trobbiani scored Barcelona's winner two minutes from the end. Barcelona had taken a three-minute lead but Oriente Petrolero pressed hard after equalizing in the 33rd minute and scored a possible winner which was anulled for offside amid strong protests – also after the game when TV cameras clearly showed a Barcelona player on the goal-line.

March 30 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
EMELEC (Ecuador) 2 (Mendoza, Cardenas)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 2 (Da Silva, Campos)
HT: 1-2. **Ref**: Nelson Rodriquez (Venezuela).

Emelec: Baldriz, Carrion (Batallas), Canga, Russo, Capurro, Verduga, Minda, Vidal Pachito, Mendoza, Lezcano (Cardenas), Aviles.

Oriente Petrolero: Bernuncio, Roca, Brunetto, Villafane, Saldias, Melgar (Molina), Campos (Rueda), Avila, Medrano, Da Silva, Cristaldo.

Oriente Petrolero dominated from the start against a slow Emelec defence, took a two-minute lead and then had another goal anulled for a doubtful offside before scoring their second goal after 27 minutes. Crossing over with a 2-1 lead, Oriente lost the initiative when Melgar had to go off injured after 60 minutes and they then indulged in time wasting tactics until Cardenas scored. Emelec's equalizer eight minutes from the end. This resulted in an 11-minute suspension as a Bolivian team official ran onto the field to protest and players started fighting with Minda (E) and Bronetto (OP) being sent off.

April 4 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
EMELEC (Ecuador) 3 (Aviles, Ron, Mendoza)
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 1 (Macias)
HT: 3-0. **Ref**: Nelson Ruales (Ecuador).

Emelec: Baldriz, Carrion, Russo, Canga, Capurro, Verduga, De Nigri, Ron, Mendoza, Aviles, Lezcano (Valdez).

Barcelona: Morales, Izquiero, Macias, Montanero, Bravo (Jauch), Munoz, Saralegui, Hurtado (Proano), Trobbiani, Uquillas, Acosta.

Emelec, with good midfield control, with De Negri standing out, attacked more and successfully stopped Barcelona from building up attacks. Emelec, apparently satisfied with their 3-0 lead, slowed down in the second half when Barcelona pressed more and pulled a goal back after five minutes, but they were left with 10 men in the last eight minutes when Montanero was sent off for rough play.

April 4 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 1 (Saldias pen.)
THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref**: Mario Prado (Bolivia). **Att**: 20,000.

Oriente Petrolero: Bernucio, Roca, Villafane, Coimbra, Saldias, Medrano, Cristaldo, Avila (Alves), Da Silva, Campos, Molina (Monasterio).

The Strongest: Aragon, Montano, Fontana, Martinez, Illanes (Arce), Villegas, Quinteros, Luna, Romero, (Ayaviri), Ortega, Jimenez.

Oriente Petrolero were the better team – Villafane headed against the crossbar after 26 minutes – but the first half finished 0-0 and they had to wait until two minutes from the end for Saldias to slot home a penalty for their victory.

April 10 in La Paz, Bolivia.
THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 2 (Martinez 2)
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 1 (Quinteros o.g.)
HT: 2-1. **Ref**: Victor Ojeda (Chile).

The Strongest: Aragon, Illanes, Martinez, Montano, Arce, Villegas, Quinteros,Luna, Ortega, Jimenez, Veliz.

Barcelona: Morales, Guzman, Quinteros, Macias, Izquierdo, Proano, Trobbiani, Hurtado, Saralegui, Jimenez, Munoz.

The Strongest was well on top during the whole match and their slender victory can best be explained by some outstanding goalkeeper by Barcelona's Morales.

April 14 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bolivia) 1 (Da Silva)
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 1 (Acosta)
HT: 1-0. **Ref**: Gaston Castro (Chile). **Att**: 20,000.

Oriente Petrolero: Bernuncio, Roca, Brunetto, Coimbra, Saldias, Medrano (Melgar), Avila, Celio, Da Silva, Molina, Cristaldo.

Barcelona: Morales, Guzman, Quinteros, Macias, Izquierdo, Proano, Trobbiani, Saralegui, Hurtado, Jimenez, Acosta (Munoz).

Barcelona were danger in counter-attacks and controlled the midfield and after they took a 28-minute lead with a Da Silva header, Oriente Petrolero attacked desperately for an equalizer to stay in contention for a second round place, but with little organization.

April 17 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
BARCELONA (Ecuador) 1 (Bravo)
THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref**: Jose Ramirez (Peru).

Barcelona: Morales, Izquierdo, Quinteros, Montanero, Guzman (Munoz), Hurtado, Saralegui, Bravo, Trobbiani, Jimenez (Uquillas), Acosta.

The Strongest: Aragon, Montano, Martinez, Illanes, Arce, Villegas, Quinteros, Luna, Ortega, Jimenez (Rocha), Ayaviri (Coronado).

Barcelona, obliged to win to stay in contention for a second round place, pressed hard, but were allowed few ch

LETTERS

SIR, – It's unfortunate that down here in Australia, soccer fans are deprived of exposure to the most popular sport in the world, especially with such a multi-cultural race as we have.

I would personally like to add comments to some letters I have recently read. Having been playing soccer for 18yrs now and owning World Cup Scrapbooks from 1974 I feel I need to state some facts clear.

To AV Szumsk, Sheffield – seedings are necessary because the entertainment value of the game is greatly increased. Good teams deserve to be displayed. Remember FIFA still allow 25% of World Cup teams to come from "Lesser known" places. Who misses out? Hungary, Denmark, France – Who for? USA, Costa Rica, Egypt!

I agree with Kevin Parrott, Bermuda – seedings are necessary to provide quality entertainment – the original purpose of all sports!

To World Soccer – thank you for your comprehensive coverage of the world game. We in Australia appreciate it!
R. DRUSETTA, Torrensville, S. Australia.

Sir, – First let me commend you on your excellent magazine. I find it both enjoyable and informative. However, allow me to make a few suggestions, if I may. First, may I back up Nicholas Ruane's letter in the March issue in calling for the inclusion of English First Division and Scottish Premier Division results in your magazine. They are a very important part of the world soccer scene and deserve to be included.
TONY MCCORMACK, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Sir, – As an avid reader of World Soccer I have been disappointed by the last 3 issues as half the magazine is taken up on focuses on the World Cup qualifying nations to the detriment of other interesting articles. Surely it would have been better to feature four nations from the January to June issues thus all would have been covered before the World Cup in a general spread?

Finally, I hope your magazine will continue to criticise FIFA for their appalling decisions on players having to wear shinguards, all-seater stadiums and their inability to get referees to caution/send off players for deliberate fouls.

It seems strange to me that I can play football in a group of 12-18 players every week and only about three fouls will be committed in 90 minutes while professional games feature 30-35 fouls on average.

I shudder to think what the refereeing standard in the World Cup Finals will be like.
VINCENT BROWN. Crossgates, Bellshill.

● NO apologies for the World Cup concentration – it's the biggest event in the world game and it's our duty to our readers to reflect that.

Soviet captain Rinat Dasayev

WHAT do YOU think about the key issues of the World Cup? As soon as the finals are under way in Italy, let us know. Write to:
World Cup Letters,
World Soccer,
25th Floor,
Kings Reach Tower,
Stamford Street,
London,
SE1 9LS.

INFORMATION DESK

SIR, – First let me congratulate you on an outstanding magazine – I have been a keen follower of World Soccer since 1974 and I feel I have grown up with it. I do have a few requests – cut off as we are from international football it is only through magazines such as yours that keeps us up to date on world soccer events. During your coverage of the World Cup could you please publish team lists along with squad numbers, similar to your 1974 coverage, and indicate the captains. Once again thanks for a super mag.
BRETT BARNETT, Lyndhurst, S. Africa.

● National captains for the World Cup are likely to be: ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona. AUSTRIA: Toni Polster. BELGIUM: Jan Ceulemans. BRAZIL. Careca. CAMEROON: Kunde. COLOMBIA: Valderrama. COSTA RICA: Roger Flores. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Hasek. EGYPT: Ahmed Ramzy. ENGLAND: Bryan Robson. HOLLAND: Gullit. ITALY: Baresi. REP IRELAND: Whelan. RUMANIA: Lung. SCOTLAND: Aitken. SOUTH KOREA: Chung Yong-hwan. SOVIET UNION: Dasayev. SPAIN: Butragueno. SWEDEN: Hysen. UAE: Fahad Mubarak. USA: Windischmann. URUGUAY: Francescoli. W GERMANY: Matthaus. YUGOSLAVIA: Zlatko Vujovic.

SIR, – I am looking for a book that deals only with the European Champions Cup. I already have Hockinges European Cups which is a statistical record and the Encyclopaedia of World Football which deals only briefly with the subject. Can you help me? M. CAPON, Maidstone.

● Consider The European Cup 1955-80 by Motson/Rowlinson (Queen Anne Press); the Europa Pokal series (Copress, Munich); and European Cups 1989 (Spadoni).

SIR, – When the European Club competitions were started there was no away goals rule so drawn ties were settled after a third game – was the third game always played on neutral ground?
KEVIN J. CURTIS, Winskill Road, Liverpool.

● Sometimes the deciding ties were played on neutral grounds but sometimes the clubs agreed on one or other's home ground either after the toss of a coin or sometimes after suitable cash compensation terms had been agreed.

Please note that queries can be answered ONLY in this column.

VIDEO

THE SOCCER video market is booming. Among the plethora of films available for home viewing are several with particular relevance to the World Cup and thus of particular interest to World Soccer readers.

Channel 5 (PO Box 951, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9UN) feature hour-long tapes on the careers and styles of Diego Maradona and Michel Platini. Entitled, respectively, Diego Maradona: Napoli Corner and Platini: Soccer Superstar both include plenty of exciting action of both players but also interviews and career review which make both worthwhile buys at £9.99 each.

Campaign

For Irish fans the Warner Home Video organisation have produced a 97-minute film, Che Sera! Sera!, all about the Irish World Cup campaign. This, too, features player interviews and reviews the development of Irish football as an international force which no opponent dare ignore.

The BBC have joined the rush to celluloid, with The Boys from Brazil. As the title suggests, this is all you ever loved about Brazilian World Cup soccer. The BBC have also further developed their Match of the Day history. Latest volume on offer is Part 2: The Seventies. Included is more vintage action from Keegan, Hudson, Currie, Bowles etc.

BOOKS

THE World Cup is the dominant theme in the soccer book market – and anyone planning a trip to Italy would do well to look beyond the sports book shelves.

A number of special map and guide books have been produced with the World Cup in mind. Best of all, perhaps, may be the 1990 Michelin Guide, especially valuable for those who intend to take in more of Italy than football alone. For motorists Michelin point to their Motoring Atlas of Europe which contains town plans, road and motorway maps – and all of them in a large-format volume which saves much of that annoying flicking between pages to follow a route.

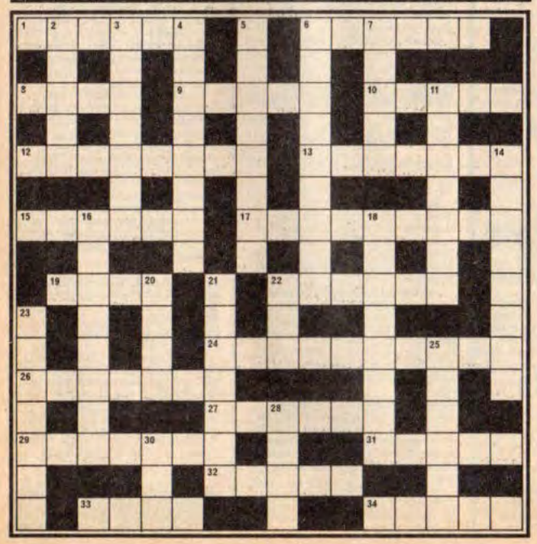
Comprehensive

Of the football books the most comprehensive and authoritative new history is The World Cup 1930-1990, edited by Jack Rollin for Guinness Publishing (33 London Road, Enfield, Middlesex; price £9.95).

But if it's a pocket guide you want, then World Cup 90 by Philip Evans (Hodder and Stoughton, Mill Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2YA; price 2.50). This maintains the high standard set by the author with similar editions before previous World Cups.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by Barry Talbot



ACROSS
1. Member of West Germany's 1974 winning team.
6. Scorer in the 1954 Final.
8. On the losing side in the 1966 Final.
9. African goalkeeper who starred in 1982.
10. Yugoslav inside-forward in 1950 & 1954.
12. Venue at this year's Championships.
13. Defender in Brazil's 1958 winning team.
15. World Cup inning manager.
17. Italian defender in 1934.
19. Dutchman, twice a losing finalist.
22. Referee of the 1982 Final.
24. East German who's goal beat the winners in 1974.
26. Defender on the winning side in 1982.
27. Hungarian scorer in the 1938 Final.
29. Tough West German defender in 1958 & 1962.
31. Yugoslav manager in 1962.
32. Rumanian defender for this year's competition.
33. Famous team-mate of 4 Down.
34. Twice a World Cup winning manager.

DOWN
2. Argentinian midfield star of 1966.
3. Manager of the stylish French side of the eighties.
4. Record scorer in World Cup Final's tournament.
5. Top scorer in 1938.
6. Members of Brazil's 1970 winning side.
11. Brazilian defender in the 1978 tournament.
14. Italian goalkeeper in the 1938 Final.
16. Star of Austria's 1934 side.
18. Yugoslav manager who also coached Real Madrid.
20. Top scorer in 1974.
21. On the losing side in the 1970 Final.
22. Uruguayan scorer in the 1930 Final.
23. South American star who played in the Football League.
25. Manager of one of this year's qualifiers.
28. Italian forward star in 1970.
30. Twice a loser with 19 Across.

MAY CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Mason. 4. Warsaw. 9. Cattlin. 10. Ashurst. 11. Allen. 12. Toshack. 15. Verona. 17. Spartak. 18. Platt. 20. Royals. 21. Yashin. 22. Zenga. 23. Romero. 24. Nene. DOWN: 1. Mackay. 2. Sotil. 3. Orlando. 5. Aarhus. 6. Sparta. 7. West. 8. Anastasi. 13. Hardyman. 14. Charlton. 15. Valdano. 16. Ritchie. 19. Enzo. 20. Rene.

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